

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

DECEMBER, 1999
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 10

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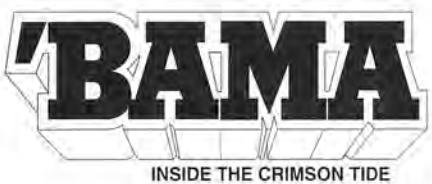
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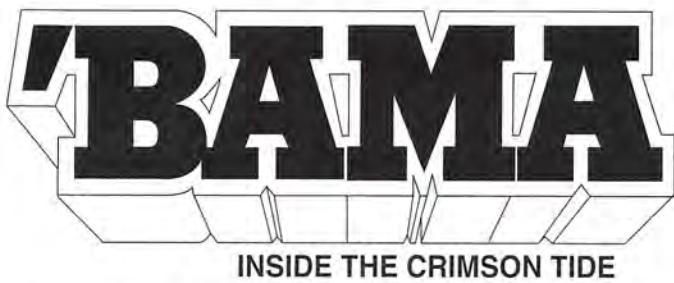
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On The Cover: Darius Gilbert has all the tools to be an outstanding linebacker for the Crimson Tide. He has gotten plenty of playing time, including some starting assignments, as a sophomore. (Editor's Note: Alabama is a NIKE team, but Gilbert was in a Russell practice jersey for this photograph.) See Page 12.

Barry Fikes Photo

BAMA SCORECARD

Athletics Director

Although hard information is hard to come by, published reports have it that Alabama will not name an athletics director to replace the departed Bob Bockrath until after Alabama has played its football game at Auburn on November 20.

Those reports said that University President Dr. Andrew Sorenson received two names from the search committee he appointed to provide him with three nominees. And it is also reported that Sorenson has interviewed the two who were recommended. They are Alabama Associate Athletics Director Mal Moore, a former Crimson Tide quarterback and longtime coach who served as offensive coordinator under both Paul Bryant and Gene Stallings; and Wright Waters, also an alumnus of The Capstone, the commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference and former commissioner of the Southern Conference.

It's All-Star Time

Much has been made of Alabama's campaign for football star Shaun Alexander in the Heisman Trophy race. Alexander is likely to come up short in that competition because of a mediocre performance against Tennessee and an ankle injury that resulted in one game missed and another poor performance when he tried to come back too early. But Alexander is still expected to be an easy choice as one of the All-Southeastern Conference running backs and should make most, if not all, All-America teams. He is in the running for *Football News* offensive player of the year.

Bama has one more almost certain All-America in offensive tackle Chris Samuels. He is also a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award and the Outland Trophy. Samuels should also win the Jacobs Award, given each year to the man voted by SEC assistant coaches as the league's top blocker.

Alabama's media relations office, as the publicists of all major college football teams, has assembled and disseminated information on worthy candidates. The Crimson Tide has had reasonable success this year, which means a number of Bama players are nominees for various honors. In addition to Alexander and Samuels they include:

For All-SEC, defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin, center Paul Hogan, wide receiver Freddie Milons, defensive end Kindal Moorehead, defensive tackle/end Kenny Smith (now out for the year with an injury), and quarterback Andrew Zow.

There is also an SEC All-Freshman Team (and Freshman All-America squads will also pop up later). Almost sure bets for honors are three true freshmen who have been starters for the Tide—offensive tackle Dante Ellington, defensive end Kenny King, and linebacker Saleem Rasheed. Additionally, wide receiver Antonio Carter and defensive tackle Jarret Johnson have been occasional starters and have played regularly.

Although he is a redshirt freshman, mid-

dle linebacker Marvin Constant was Alabama's leading tackler before being lost for the season with a knee injury suffered on the final play of Alabama's 23-17 victory over LSU.

There's certainly a chance that one other member of this Crimson Tide football team could be honored this year. Mike DuBose should get consideration for Coach of the Year if Bama makes it to the SEC Championship Game in Atlanta on December 4.

Team Of The '90s

A number of ballots have already arrived for the "Alabama Football Team of the 1990s." For those who have not yet voted, a new ballot is on Page 30 of this issue.

It has come to our attention that the name of Bryne Diehl, an excellent punter for the Tide, was inadvertently left off the initial ballot. His name is on this second ballot.

(If the ballot has been removed from this copy of 'Bama, or if you need a ballot for someone else, you may call [205] 345-5074 or write to P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486 and we will mail a ballot.)

Basketball Preview

As expected, Alabama basketball teams are not expected to challenge for any championships this year, at least not in predictions of those attending SEC Media Days in early November.

In men's competition, in the SEC Western Division, the Alabama team of Coach Mark Gottfried was picked third behind unanimous selection Auburn and Arkansas. Auburn received all 40 first place ballots and 240 points. The Razorbacks had 177 points, Bama 142, Mississippi State 121, LSU 67, and Ole Miss 28.

In the Eastern Division it was Florida (227), Kentucky (188), Tennessee (181), Vanderbilt (100), Georgia (85), and South Carolina (56).

The men's pre-season All-SEC team included Chris Porter (unanimous pre-season Player of the Year) and Doc Robinson of Auburn, Tony Harris of Tennessee, Mike Miller of Florida and Jamaal Magloire of Kentucky.

One surprise: In the men's pre-season basketball Coaches Poll conducted by ESPN and *USA Today*, Alabama was among those receiving votes for the nation's top 25.

On the women's side, Alabama Coach Rick Moody returns just one starter in Nicole Carruth and she was just a part-time starter, so it was something of a compliment that Bama was picked in the upper half of the nation's strongest women's basketball conference. The Tide was sixth in the 12-team league (the women don't play in divisions). It was no surprise that defending national champion Tennessee received the most votes, 214, but Georgia wasn't far behind at 199. They were followed by Auburn (179), LSU (161), Florida (125), Alabama (112), Kentucky (105), Vanderbilt (88), Mississippi

State (76), Arkansas (58), Ole Miss (36), and South Carolina (21).

The women's pre-season All-SEC team was Tamika Catchings (pre-season Player of the Year) and Semeka Randall of Tennessee, Consella Sparrow of Auburn, Tonya Washington of Florida, and Kelly Miller of Georgia (whose sister, Coco, received a vote for pre-season SEC Player of the Year, but who did not make the pre-season All-SEC team).

Moody did have the quote of the two-day event in Birmingham. He said, "We could become a pretty good basketball team. We could be somebody's nightmare somewhere down the line."

Hays Honored

Tide senior basketball center Jeremy Hays, who led the SEC in rebounding in SEC vs. SEC games last season, received honorable mention in the Anson Mount Scholar Athlete Award. The national award, listed in *Playboy's* December 1999 basketball preview issue, recognizes achievement, both in the classroom and on the basketball court. Candidates are judged on scholastic and athletic accomplishments. Only 20 players were selected.

Hays, who missed Alabama's opening games with a foot injury, was also listed 22nd among the nation's top centers in college basketball in the Rolls-Royce Rankings by *Dick Vitale's College Basketball*. He was a second team pre-season All-SEC choice by *Host Communications*, while *Athlon* listed him third team.

Bama In NBA

As the NBA opens its 1999-2000 season, it does so with six former Crimson Tide players on its rosters. Alabama started the 1998-99 season with 10 players on the NBA's opening rosters, giving the Tide a powerful punch in professional basketball. Kentucky leads the Southeastern Conference with nine players on the current NBA rosters.

Alabama and Arkansas both have six players. Alabama's six include Jason Caffey (Golden State), Robert Horry (Los Angeles Lakers), Antonio McDyess (Denver), Derrick McKey (Indiana), Roy Rogers (Denver), and Latrell Sprewell (New York Knicks). Two more Alabama players, Keith Askins (Miami) and Eric Washington (Boston) were on the NBA's roster until the latest cuts. (Askins has been injured of late).

Dunn Heads Sting

The Crimson Tide has laid claim to its first head coach in the WNBA. T.R. Dunn is the new head coach of the WNBA's Charlotte Sting. Dunn, who played at Alabama from 1974-77, played in the NBA from 1977-89 for Phoenix, Denver and Portland. After his playing career he was an assistant coach in the NBA with Denver and the Charlotte Hornets. He joined the Sting last July as an assistant coach, then was elevated to head coach in late October. Among his Sting players is former Tide All-America Niesa Johnson.

Harriers Reach NCAA

The men's cross country team of Coach David Troy finished second in the NCAA

Regional Championships to earn a spot in the NCAA Championships, to be run at Bloomington, Indiana, Monday, November 22. Tide star Tim Broe finished third to lead four Bama runners earning All-Region honors. Joining Broe were Chris Mutal who was sixth, Michael Chettle who was 22nd and Frank Rono who was 23rd. The women's team of Coach Rachelle Roberts finished seventh and did not qualify as a team, but two Bama women qualified individually. They are soph Ashley LaBudde, earning her second trip to the NCAA Championships with a fifth place finish, and freshman Dawn Boggs, who finished sixth.

Goalkeeper Is All-SEC

Even though the Crimson Tide women's soccer team of Coach Don Staley finished with a disappointing 6-14 record, there were a few high points. Alabama continued its tradition of being "Goalkeeper U" as sophomore Rachel Brown was voted first team All-Southeastern Conference. Bama has had the All-SEC goalkeeper almost every season since soccer became a conference sport.

In other achievements: Sophomore Danielle Watson started things off the first week of the season, as she was voted SEC Player of the Week for week one. For her efforts Watson was also selected to the All-America Team of the Week. Junior Melissa McGee and freshman Missy Keller made the all-tournament team in the Santa Clara Nike Invitational as well as the SEC/Big 10 Challenge in Lexington, Kentucky. In Alabama's 3-1 victory over Auburn, senior Martha Mouring's assist tied her for the lead for most assists in a career at The Capstone.

The Crimson Tide also placed five players on the Academic All-SEC list. Mouring led the way with a 3.51 GPA in Political Science along with sophomore Kathleen Motheral who had a 3.51 in Advertising. Also on the list was junior Tiffany Carle with a 3.37 in Microbiology, senior Tracey Timmerman with a 3.29 in Elementary Education, and senior LaTonda Eubanks with a 3.17 in General Health Studies.

Pre-Season All-America

Alabama first baseman Jeremy Brown and right hand pitcher Lance Cormier have been named to the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association's 2000 Pre-Season All-America team.

Brown (5-9, 205), a sophomore from Hueytown, is the only SEC representative on the first team. Last year as a freshman, Brown batted .347 with 20 doubles, 15 home runs and 68 RBI. He set school freshmen records for doubles, home runs and RBI. For his efforts, Brown was named Freshman All-America by *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper, *Baseball America*; and honorable mention All-America by the NCBWA. In addition, he was named to the SEC All-Tournament team, helping Alabama to its fourth post-season title in five years.

Cormier (6-1, 200), a sophomore from Lafayette, Louisiana, was a second-team selection as a relief pitcher. As a freshman in 1999, Cormier posted a 6-3 record and a SEC-leading 11 saves. He also started three games and was instrumental in key SEC wins at Auburn and against LSU. Cormier

was named Freshman All-America by *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper; *Baseball America*; and honorable mention All-America by the NCBWA. In addition, he was named second-team All-SEC as a true freshman by the league's 12 head coaches.

"Jeremy and Lance are both very good players and deserve any type of recognition," Alabama Head Coach Jim Wells said. "I am very happy for them and hope that they will continue to lead this program as they have in the past."

Christmas Baseball Camp

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells will hold his annual Christmas Baseball Camp Monday, December 27, and Tuesday, December 28. The camp is open to youngsters first through 12th grade.

The camp is billed as "an intense learning environment designed to improve the fundamental skills necessary to become a better all-around player." Instruction includes fundamental drills, proper practice techniques, goal-setting, game situations, and fulfilling potential. Specific instruction will be given on hitting, pitching, catching, fielding, throwing, base-running, weight training, flexibility, speed enhancement, team offense and team defense.

Cost of the camp is \$130 for commuters and \$160 for those staying overnight. To receive registration information call Jim Gatewood at (205) 348-5258.

On The Softball Field

It will be one of the most memorable seasons in Alabama sports history. The 2000 version of the Alabama softball program will be ushering in the new millennium in a brand new stadium. "This is going to change the overall attitude of the program," head coach Pat Murphy said. "We practiced on the new field the last day of fall practice and just for that one day, you could tell that the players and staff's attitudes were completely different. The atmosphere was electric and it was just a practice."

The new \$2.1 million softball facility will also be home to the US Olympic Softball Team for one night as the national team will play an exhibition there on Sunday June 4 at 7 p.m. The Crimson Tide will begin its home season in their new stadium at 7 p.m. February 23 against Alabama-Birmingham.

Fall Tennis

Although tennis is a spring sport in college, there is significant individual tournament competition in the fall. However, Women's Coach Jenny Mainz elected to scale back the number of individual tournaments for her team in an attempt to do a little team building.

Mainz and her players attended all the tournaments together instead of the normal practice of breaking the squad up and sending players to different events. The results were positive.

Sophomore Kathleen Mele had a team best record of 8-3, including winning the "C" Consolation title at the Lady Seminole Classic. She lost only nine games over three matches during her title run. Sophomores Becca Baum and Weyli Chang won the "B" Doubles title in the same event. The cham-

pionships were the first for Tide players since 1997.

The men of Coach Adam Steinberg took the more traditional fall approach of spreading players around in a number of tournaments, including two legs of the ITA's Collegiate Grand Slam, the T. Rowe Price National Clay Courts in Baltimore, Maryland, and the All-American Championships in Austin, Texas.

Senior Francisco Rodriguez, who advanced to the round of 16 at the Clay Courts Nationals and at the All-American, is ranked fifth in pre-season rankings for the second consecutive year.

Fall Golf

The women's golf team of Coach Betty Palmer had a successful fall season as the Tide earned a pair of top 10 finishes including a runner-up showing at the Ohio State Lady Buckeye Invitational in early October. Eight different Crimson Tide linksters earned a travel spot for the four fall events with sophomore Sarah Johnston the only player to see action in every event. Johnston, an All-SEC performer last year, led the Tide with a 75.67 stroke average during the fall. Junior Paula Carter, who missed the final two tournaments after having shoulder surgery, posted a 76.17 average and is expected to make a full return for the spring campaign.

Dick Spybey has a very young men's squad. Therefore, he elected to allow every member of the team some tournament exposure. That included freshmen Austin Hynson and Wesley Pate.

Second-year player Jan-Are Larsen finished the fall, as he did last season, as one of the Tide's low stroke leaders. In four tournaments, his average was 73.9. But equal with that average was a man playing collegiately for the time, redshirt freshman Nic Balanis whose 11 rounds included two under par rounds. Bama's most experienced player, junior Freeman Fite, was next with a 74.75 average in three tournaments. Hynson played in three tournaments and had a 75.11 average, while Pate competed in four tournaments with a 76.27 average.

One of the moves Spybey made to get his young players some experience was to put together a junior varsity squad. While their varsity counterparts competed in the Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate in October, Wes Vance, Bruce Chambers, Lee Davis, Oscar Lindvall and Drew Eller went to Gadsden and not only competed in but won the Gadsden State Invitational. Vance won the individual championship, averaging 72 in two rounds of play.

Robert Fraley

Understandably, most of the attention was on United States Open Golf Champion Payne Stewart when a private jet airplane crashed in South Dakota killing Stewart and five others. One of the others was Stewart's good friend and agent, former Alabama quarterback Robert Fraley.

Fraley, who played for Coach Paul Bryant at Alabama (1971-73) and whose position coach was Mal Moore, had also earned a law degree from The University and was one of the nation's most successful sports agents.

New Tiders:

Outstanding Stars Opt For Bama

by Kirk McNair

Men's basketball gets surprises both in unexpected signees and one unexpected loss

It's something of a mystery as to why *The Birmingham News* would herald with such glee the fact that a top basketball prospect in Alabama who had committed to the Crimson Tide would renege. But that's what happened when Mario Austin, a 6-9, 250-pound inside player from Sumter County announced that he had signed with Mississippi State. It was bannered across the front page of the newspaper and then the top story on the first sports page. An accompanying column chided Alabama fans to forget it, intimating that Tide followers had become involved in the recruiting process (which is an NCAA violation).

The newspaper did give Alabama credit for Alabama Head Men's Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried being able to land Gerald Wallace of Childersburg, the 6-7 wing player considered by many to be the nation's top prospect.

Alabama also had a couple of surprises in early period signings of men's basketball players. The Tide inked Demetrius Smith, a 6-3 guard who is rated among the top 35 prospects in the nation, and added Dan Banko, a 6-11 center from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville.

This activity and more took place in the early signing period for winter and spring sports, November 10-17. Most of the attention in this period is on men's basketball, but there were signees in other sports. And because a school may not announce or comment on a signee until the paperwork is received (in some cases late November), it is almost certain there are Alabama signees who have not yet been announced.

The loss of Austin was not insignificant and the circumstances were unusual, to say the least. There is no question that a verbal commitment is not binding and Mississippi State was within the rules to continue recruiting Austin during the appropriate recruiting period. Auburn continued recruiting Wallace, although without success. Bama continued to recruit Smith, whom most had suspected would sign with Georgia, and Banko, who was considered likely to attend nearby Vanderbilt.



Jared Woodward

Alabama coaches believed until just before signing day that Austin would be in the Crimson Tide fold. Then they heard those words that for years have been an explanatory euphemism to Bama recruiters: "I felt more comfortable..."

Despite the disappointment of the Austin loss, Gottfried has to be thrilled at the early group choosing Alabama. While Banko is not well-known and may be considered a "project," he is 6-10, and, as the saying goes, Gottfried and his staff can coach him to play basketball, but they can't coach him to be 6-11 (or taller, since he is thought to be still growing). Wallace and Smith are among the nation's elite.

Wallace averaged 30 points, 13.8 rebounds, and 3.8 blocked shots per game his junior season. His single game highs included 51 points (a game in which he connected on seven three-point shots and also had three dunks among his scores) and 11 blocked shots. He was also an outstanding

player for the AAU team, Alabama Ice, coached by Kenny Harris. That team has been one of the nation's best for several years.

Last spring he was named MVP of the Bob Gibbons Tournament of Champions in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (ironically, home of the Tar Heels, who finished second to Bama in the recruiting battle for Wallace). He was the top-ranked prospect in the country according to *USA Today*, the *adidas Blue Ribbon Yearbook*, *Future Stars*, *Prep Spotlight*, and *Prep Star*. He was listed number two by *Recruiting Beat*. *Hoop Scoop* was not as impressed, listing him the nation's sixth best prospect. *The Sporting News* was impressed, comparing his skills to those of the incomparable Michael Jordan.

Gottfried said, "Obviously, when you sign the number one player in the country, you're ecstatic. The beauty of Gerald Wallace is that he's just as good a person as he is a player. I don't think there's any question that he can have an impact on this program."

Smith was truly a surprise, although his name had been linked to the Crimson Tide during the recruiting period. Recruiting sources had reported at one time that Smith had visited the Alabama campus on an official visit; then said that no, he hadn't visited, but was going to; then changed again, saying he wouldn't visit Alabama in order to visit Kentucky. And all along it was presumed that it didn't matter where he visited because he was going to sign with Georgia.

But, Smith said, "I had a great visit to Alabama. I liked the people. I liked the coach. I liked everything to do with the academics. It just felt right for me." The two-time all-state performer at Callaway High School in Hogansville (on the outskirts of LaGrange) said that he picked Alabama over Georgia. He also said that after he had eliminated Kentucky, the Wildcats' head coach, Tubby Smith, made an effort to have Smith reconsider. "I'd have to have a really good visit for UK to jump into the lead," Smith posted in an internet discussion prior to signing day.

Smith, who is the nephew of former

Louisville standout Derek Smith, averaged 18 points and seven assists per game last year. He is expected to be a combination point and shooting guard for Alabama.

Banko averaged 14 points and seven rebounds a game last season after helping MBA to the state championship his sophomore year. Gottfried acknowledged that Banko may not be an early contributor. "Dan is a very promising player," said the Tide coach. "He's got a lot of potential. He's a player who understands that it's more important how he finishes his career than how he starts it. He may be a redshirt candidate, but we think he's going to be a fine addition to our team."

The signees assure Bama of another highly-regarded recruiting class. Last year's group of Shea Cotton, Erwin Dudley, Rod Grizzard, Terrance Meade, D.J. Towns and Kenny Walker was ranked among the five best in the nation.

Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody added one of the most highly-regarded prospects in the South when Katrina "Binky" Martello signed with the Crimson Tide. She has already been a four-time all-state tournament selection and two-time Class 2A Player of the Year for

Jay High School in Milton, Florida.

Martello, a six-footer, was not a surprise signee. She has been attending Moody's summer basketball camp since she was in the sixth grade and an assistant coach on her team is Becky Holley, who is Moody's sister. She picked Bama over Nebraska and Florida.

The honor student averaged 22 points and 11.6 rebounds per game for Coach Terry McClure's team last year. She has been a starter since the seventh grade and has been a part of two state championship teams. She is on pace to finish as the number three scorer in Florida history.

Martello is expected to be a wing player at Alabama.

"We are thrilled to have Binky joining us at Alabama," Moody said. "She is a big guard who can shoot as well as pass and handle the ball. She is a tremendously intense competitor on the court and an outstanding student off the court. Binky has high expectations for success, and I believe she will be a big asset to our program."

Other sports are expected to announce several signees later, but a handful have been revealed. Under Jim Wells, the Alabama baseball program

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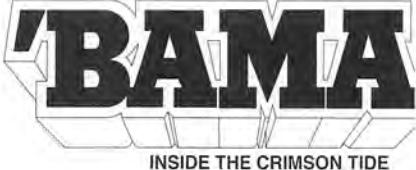
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has become one of the nation's best, and it was no surprise the Crimson Tide added a couple of outstanding pitchers.

Jared Woodward, 6-1, 178, is a right-handed pitcher for Coach Mike Notaro (formerly an Alabama assistant coach) at Tuscaloosa Academy. Woodward, a National Honor Society student whose grade point average is above 4.0 and who has won the Harvard Book Award, set a state record last year with a 17-0 record. He had an earned run average of 1.22. In 98 innings he allowed 79 hits, walked 18 and struck out 123. He pitched America Legion baseball last summer and had an 8-2 record and 0.87 ERA. As a sophomore he had a 9-4 record and 1.86 ERA. He was an honorable mention All-America by USA Today last spring. Tuscaloosa Academy won the 1999 state private schools championship.

Josh Thigpen of Rogers High School in Greenhill is a 6-4 right-handed pitcher who picked Bama over Mississippi State. Last year for Coach Dan Beavers he set school records for home runs (12) and batting average (.552). He had a 2.48 earned run aver-

age and averaged 12.5 strikeouts per nine innings. In his three-year career he holds school records for doubles (36), home runs (23), and runs batted in (98). His career batting average is .476.

Erin Wright of Mortimer Jordan High School in Birmingham has signed a scholarship with the Bama softball team of Coach Pat Murphy. She is the 1999 Gatorade Alabama High School Softball "Player of the Year." She led Mortimer Jordan to the 5A state championship as she was named the most valuable player in the tournament.

Men's Golf Coach Dick Spybey has landed a number of Future Masters Champions, but he's now landed his first top-ranked junior college player.

Nick Rousey, a Pensacola, Florida, native who is playing at Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City, has signed with the Crimson Tide. Rousey won the 1999 NJCAA individual national championship and led his team to the 1999 NJCAA national championship. His play this fall has been spectacular. He averaged 69.9 in 12 tournaments.

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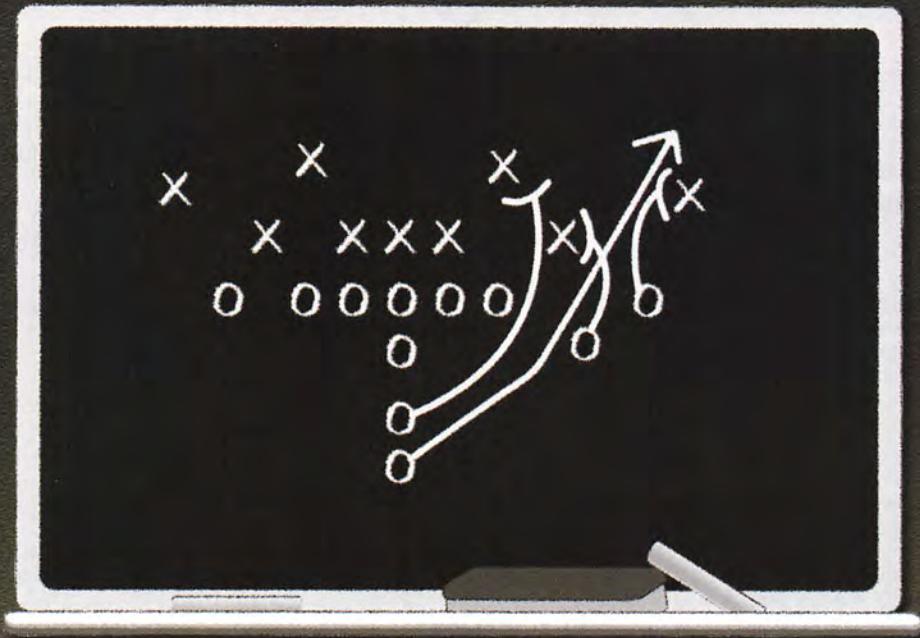
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Darius Gilbert:

He's Everything You Look For

by J.E. Lisby

Tide got a help from Mom in recruiting top linebacker

If you measure a young athlete's value to his team in terms of potential, few players on the current Alabama squad would be more deserving of attention than Darius Gilbert. The 6-2, 220-pound sophomore is blessed with all the ingredients necessary to develop into a big-time college linebacker: height, speed, quickness, athleticism, intelligence, football smarts. You name it; he's got it. Gilbert's only problem now is making sure he fulfills that promise.

Championship college football is all about commitment. Not just of effort, but of time. For all practical purposes, the multi-sport athlete has disappeared from Division I college sports. To succeed at this level, the indi-

vidual athlete must devote himself exclusively to one sport. If not, he'll almost inevitably lose his job to someone who is willing to make that commitment.

Gilbert likely arrived on the Alabama campus less prepared for that fact than most. And understandably so. In high school at Oxford he was the classic multi-sport athlete starring in football, basketball and baseball. "As a young kid I really wasn't into football," Gilbert said. "I loved baseball. In high school I was a three-sport guy. In fact, I played so much that I really didn't have any time to spend in the weight room."

His college coaches knew they were getting a gifted athlete. What they didn't know was where he'd play. He had the frame for linebacker, but not the muscle. Early speculation mentioned the possibility of Gilbert at safety. However, normal growth and some weight training have settled that question. "Outside linebacker is his natural position," said Ellis Johnson, outside linebackers coach and defensive coordinator for the Tide. "He's got great athleticism and he'll have a chance to start for us next year."



Gilbert's head coach concurs. "He's the type of linebacker you go out and look for in the Southeastern Conference," Mike DuBose said. "He's been blessed with an awful lot of ability to play this game. He has the size, speed, intelligence and competitiveness. He's got the total package."

Impressive testimony. But the one thing about Gilbert that could separate him from the average linebacker is a quality not easily spotted by the casual fan. Darius is smart, a trait not lost on his coaches, who bring it up in every conversation about Gilbert. He has a "football awareness" not normally found in a player of his age and experience.

But just how smart do you have to be to play defense? After all, isn't a linebacker's main job to go out and hit somebody—hard? Gilbert said, "The mental aspect of linebacker is very important. You can use your athletic ability a lot on the field, but if you don't know what to do, you're in trouble. You have to be a student of the game. You have to take your playbook home and study. You have to go over your notes. You have to come in every day and watch film. We watch film as a team, but any extra you can get on your own is a bonus."

How does watching the extra film (actually, videotape) help? "There are keys out there that if you watch for them, you'll know the tendency of a team," Gilbert said. "The quarterback can give it away. The running back can give it away. You can look at the stance of a lineman. He might be sitting back a little bit showing he's either going to pull or pass-block. Those things help you."

Between plays, linebackers also have plenty of mental work to do. "We're the guys who have to get the (defensive) play out there," Gilbert said. "We have to line everyone up. And once that's done, you're thinking about what you have to do. You're looking at the linemen, quarterback and backs for your keys. You can definitely read the eyes of the quarterback."

Of course once the ball is snapped, that's when the athleticism kicks in. Linebacker play is quick and instinctive. The action comes fast and furious and the player who's thinking is the one most likely to get run around, or over.

"It's all about reaction," Gilbert said. "You're trying to get to the ball and hit anybody you can. If you think, you're in trouble. It's all about instinct. Whether it's right or wrong, you have to go full speed. Coach Johnson told us that he'd rather we play fast and dumb than cautious and slow."

But all of that controlled aggression

Darius Gilbert has all the skills to be an outstanding outside linebacker. He got a taste of it as a freshman and has been a regular as part of a very young linebacker crew this year as a sophomore.
Kaka Gidley Photo

doesn't take place in a vacuum. The recently renovated Bryant-Denny Stadium is fast gaining a reputation for noise. Some players claim that in the midst of all the violent chaos, they try to tune out the crowd to help their concentration.

Not so with Gilbert. He revels in it. "The noise from the fans is great," he said. "You love to hear the fans into the game. You know you're doing well when that happens. When you make the play and the crowd erupts, you just love it. You want to get the fans into it and then celebrate with your teammates. That's just something you love."

"Trying to describe the feeling of running onto the field at Bryant-Denny with all the fans screaming is impossible. You can't do it. Every time you run out, that tingling feeling just runs through your body. The excitement with all those people wearing crimson and white. Every time you do it, it's just about unbearable."

Gilbert is definitely thrilled to be at The Capstone playing before the rabid Bama fans. But his signing with Alabama was no certain thing. During his senior year of high school, Gilbert was at the top of almost everyone's list of top-rated athletes in the South. However, his early leader was Michigan. "I really wasn't an Alabama fan growing up," he said. "I was a Michigan fan. I just loved the colors and helmets, and like Alabama, they have a great tradition."

Gilbert said, "Recruiting got pretty hectic. The phone rings maybe 15 or 20 times a night. Your girlfriend gets agitated with you because you spend all your time talking to recruiters. They come by your school. They come to see you practice. You've got all these guys telling you how good you are and making you feel important." Nevertheless, he said, "No question, it's fun to be wanted like that."

A top prospect receiving an "extra benefit" is an NCAA no-no, but Gilbert had an "extra benefit" during this period of adulation. "My mom made sure I kept my head on straight," Gilbert said. "She said, 'Just because those guys want you, you've still got to do what Mom says.' Things like clean the house and cut the grass."

The lure of his childhood favorite team was strong, but fate intervened harshly in the Gilbert family to influence his decision to stay in-state. "Michigan was the biggest school out of our conference (recruiting me)," Gilbert said. "I thought about going there, but before my senior year my father passed in August. So I wanted to stay close to my mom. The whole time she was in my mind as to where I wanted to go. I wanted to be close so she could come see me play or visit."

He said, "Besides being close to home, two things made my decision for Alabama easy. Alabama has a great tradition. Plus, I thought I could come in and help contribute right away. It came down to Alabama and Tennessee. I enjoyed my visit and I just loved the campus. I'm glad I'm here. I'm enjoying it."

For a young man who describes himself as outwardly an extrovert but really quiet and reserved at heart, adjusting to life away from home on a big campus with all the demands on a regular student as well as those of an Alabama football player was no easy task. "People don't realize how demanding it is to be a college football player," Gilbert said. "You've got six months in the fall. Then weight-lifting in the off-season. Then spring practice. And in the summertime you have to put in more time in the weight room along with summer school.

"During football season we just don't have any time at all. You go to class and then we're over at the football complex maybe four hours. When you get home it's not watching TV or talking on the phone. It's just homework and then you go to bed. You just can't do the things that everybody else does in college. Not if you're going to be successful in the classroom and on the field."

Despite the effort involved, Gilbert is determined to succeed, both in school and in football. "For class I'm prioritizing now, making a list of the things I've got to do. In football the main way I need to improve is to keep getting stronger," he said. "I also need to be a better tackler but that's mainly a matter of strength. I want to tackle with more authority. I want to make it to the next level."

A football player with the goal of one day making it to the NFL is hardly unusual.

However, Gilbert already has down three of the prerequisites necessary to succeed at that level: talent, confidence and the willingness to learn. "I personally don't think there's a back or tight end out there that I can't cover," he said. "My strength as a linebacker is definitely in pass coverage. I know what to do on the field. And most importantly I try to be a student of the game. If you think you know it all, you won't get better."

And Darius Gilbert is definitely one young man determined to get better. Yes, for himself. But even more so for his teammates. He is acutely aware of the level of young talent being assembled by the coaching staff at linebacker.

"The fact that all of us (Marvin Constant, Saleem Rasheed, Adam Cox, Victor Ellis and Gilbert) are so young has definitely crossed my mind," Gilbert admitted. "We talk about it every now and then. Right now we're finishing out this season with the older guys, but when the spring gets here we'll enjoy it. You've got young linebackers that are loving to play the game right now. I think we can be the best out there in the next few seasons. We'll see what happens."

As any teacher will tell you, great potential can be a burden. But with Darius Gilbert and his friends returning at linebacker, Tide fans and coaches are unlikely to be worried. Given the alternative, such a burden is hardly burdensome.

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Sam Haginas:

Soph Has Already Made His Mark

by Chris Olds

Now he wants to be part of helping Bama win big

As a freshman Alabama basketball player last year, Sam Haginas had two notable achievements in Coleman Coliseum. First, he literally left his mark on the parquet floor. Second, with one play he became a part of Crimson Tide basketball lore.

The 6-8, 235-pound forward opened his career at The Capstone in a well-publicized collision with Tide senior Jeremy Hays during a practice on October 25, 1998. Haginas actually had two collisions, one with Hays and one with the court, the second of which left a 7/8-inch by 1/16-inch impression of his upper teeth permanently chipped on the floor near the right side of the north basket.

Fast-forward to February 6, 1999, and Haginas is making only his second start for the Tide, this against the fifth-ranked Kentucky Wildcats, who hadn't lost to Alabama in 10 previous match-ups dating back to 1991. With 19 seconds remaining in the game, first-year Coach Mark Gottfried's Tide club trailed 58-57. Haginas had a shot blocked on the baseline, but it was fumbled by Kentucky. Haginas recovered the ball in a scramble, drove to the basket, and slammed home the dunk to give Alabama a 59-58 lead.

Seconds later, Kentucky point guard Wayne Turner drove to the opposite basket only to be stopped by Hays. Alabama recovered and gave the ball to Haginas for another dunk and, after a Kentucky foul, a free throw to seal the 62-58 upset victory. Haginas' clutch performance sparked a mid-court celebration and a career's worth of highlight memories. The video sequence of that fabulous finish was replayed numerous times on the coliseum's JumboTron with the highlights of Leon Douglas, Reggie King, Robert Horry, and Antonio McDyess during the men's basketball Legends Weekend late this summer.

"It really happened so fast that I didn't realize what I was doing," Haginas said of the game-winning play. "When we had the Legends Weekend with the highlight video of all the players from the past, somehow the play made the tape. I was proud of that, and I guess they thought it was something pretty big. It was a great moment, and afterward the response we got from beating Kentucky was just incredible."

After the forward etched his name into Tide history with the biggest win of the now-blooming Gottfried era, he also found his name in the starting lineup for the last eight games of the season alongside Hays and three seniors—Brian Williams, Chauncey Jones and Chris Rollins. This season, Haginas brings a summer of experience which included international playing as part of the Southeastern Conference All-Star squad which toured Japan; work at a basketball camp run by former Chicago Bull and NBA legend Michael Jordan; and working with a personal trainer four days a week to better prepare him for the rigors of the college game.

Haginas also brings a season's worth of experience to a team which features seven new faces on a 14-man roster and no returners besides Hays and Haginas who have started in more than 10 games for Gottfried. Despite his lack of substantial production as a freshman, Gottfried expects Haginas to be a leader on the team.

"He needs to provide some leadership even though he's just a sophomore," said Gottfried, whose Tide team was 17-15 last season. "He's a very smart player and has been around here before, so hopefully he'll help our team in a lot of different ways."

"I think he is a better player this year," Gottfried said. "He's stronger and one of the smarter players that we have who understands what we are trying to do offensively and defensively. I think he has come back a lot better than he was a year ago."

In his freshman season Haginas played in all 32 games for Alabama, posting 4.5 points and 2.8 rebounds in an average of 15 minutes of playing time. He scored a season-high 13 points against Alabama State-fueled by a 7-for-8 performance at the free-throw line. Defensively, his leading performances came with a seven-rebound showing in Bama's final regular-season game against Arkansas, a seven-rebound game against Georgia and his three-block total in Bama's triple-overtime win over LSU.

Gaining substantial playing time as a true freshman was beneficial for Haginas, who said his adjustment was difficult despite the mentionables from last season. "It's a mental and physical strain, and I recognized it this year when I saw these freshmen go through it in the preseason," Haginas said. "The practices are longer and harder and more intense than anything you experience in high school, plus you are going against guys every day who are as big as you, as strong as you, and as quick as you are. You have to be on your toes everyday, or you're going to get burned."

The adjustment to a faster, more physical game also came with a position change for Haginas, who said he was accustomed to patrolling the paint and not the perimeter because of his height while averaging 16.4 points and 7.6 rebounds a game as a senior at Mobile's UMS-Wright. "In high school being 6-foot-8 you'll be playing center, and in practice Coach Gottfried has already given me the chance to come outside as the wing, which I always dreamed of in high school," Haginas said. "I think I have become a better perimeter player and shooter which can help the team."

Gottfried described Haginas as a "hard-nosed" player, comparing the sophomore to former Alabama star Jim Farmer, a dependable player who went on to a journeyman career in the NBA. "He's a different type of player," said Gottfried of Haginas. "He's a big strong guy who can come out on the floor and do some different things that a hard-nosed guy does. He maybe reminds me a bit of Jim Farmer in that regard. Jim was probably a better three-point shooter than Sam, but he (Haginas) is a lot better shooting than he was a year ago."

Haginas said his experiences of last season have helped this year's team because he can aid some of the younger players in their adjustments from high school to NCAA Division I basketball. "It is definitely not an easy transition and I have been able to help some of these guys with it this year," he said. "Last year I had a pretty hard time with adjusting, and it was definitely a hard thing to do."

As a freshman, Haginas said he committed too many fouls while trying to keep up with quicker, stronger players in the paint. His 92 personal fouls were second only to Hays' 99 on the team, and his four disqualifications were the most for Bama (along with graduate MC Mazique).

"I think being mentally tough to be solid defensively is what I need to work on," Haginas said. "I fouled a lot last year, that's obvious, but being able to be in the stance, to guard someone and be able to shut them out without giving up fouls is something I need to work on."

Haginas had plenty of work to do this past summer as part of the SEC All-Star team that toured Japan for two weeks in August and played five games against the Japan National Team, winning four and losing the final game of the series in Tokyo. Being one of two sophomores on an 11-man team made up of primarily juniors for the upcoming season, Haginas played sparingly during the tour; starting one game while scoring six points and col-



As most 6-8 high school players, San Haginas was a center in earning Mr. Basketball as a prep star. Now he's being given the opportunity to play on the perimeter.

Kent Gidley Photo

lecting seven rebounds in 39 minutes on the floor.

The best in Bamabasketball history reunited at the Capstone August 27-28 for the Legends Weekend, where the newest rendition of the Crimson Tide basketball team met with the players of the past and were introduced together for the first time. The significance of the weekend wasn't lost on Haginas.

"Seeing the players and the tradition that has been here just made us want to get out there and practice hard and work to get ready to play," Haginas said. "The support that the fans gave at the Legends game, with 10,000 people here, was amazing and the fans were very, very appreciative of what Coach Gottfried was able to put together.

The players appreciated it, too, when they were recognized once again for their achievements here. I also think it was a great, great weekend for the current team to experience, as young as we are."

What Gottfried has put together with his first full recruiting class has drawn the attention of national media and the attention of some high-profile high school prospects in the state. Haginas said the improved quality of the team this season is already noticeable, yet the possibilities are still unknown.

"I foresee a lot of good things this season," Haginas said. "Although half of the team is new, Coach Gottfried has helped us adjust, fit in and make some contributions. Right now it's a good time for Alabama basketball,

and there are a lot of new people and new faces. I think we will fit together real well and surprise some people this year."

Haginas said having a marked change in the team has been a challenge, yet simultaneously easy. Individually, Haginas said his role on the team is a simple one. "My contribution to the team is important," Haginas said, "and we have an offensive structure that lets anyone to have a big night. My first goal is to rebound, score points and do what they need me to do to win some ball games."

"It has been tough to adjust to new teammates, but the players are just so good and talented that it makes it somewhat easier," he said. "There's a lot of teaching in practice, but we are learning it quick and then there's that much more time for hard practice."

While the fall is the time to practice hard and play hard, for Haginas the hard work came during the summer alongside a personal trainer while conditioning and getting his playing weight to where it is now at 235 pounds, rather than attempting to work the ball inside at little as 215 pounds, his lowest weight of last season.

"This summer I was able to stay home and work out four days a week with the trainer. It has helped tremendously, along with going to a camp in Chicago in July and spending my time in Japan in August," Haginas said. "I really didn't have a chance to lift weights, but our preseason program here (under the guidance of conditioning coach Steve Martin) is very good and I have gotten stronger this year. It's a mixture of eating right and keeping myself healthy that is a big part of my progress."

In the time since Haginas signed with Alabama under former Coach David Hobbs during the early signing period in November 1997, the Tide has evolved from a team which placed high hopes on a former Alabama Mr. Basketball, Brian Williams, to an all-around team still drawing talent, though now on a nationwide scale.

Haginas has seen the changes, and said he has felt some of the pressure Williams faced since he, too, is a former Alabama Mr. Basketball award winner.

"To me, it (the Mr. Basketball pressure) has died down as a sophomore compared to when it was talked about a lot last year when I was a freshman," Haginas said. "I just come out here and work as hard as I can, do what I have to do, and hopefully that's good enough. I don't feel any added pressure at all—any more. It has died down with the improvement of the team and program as a whole."

"When I signed under Coach Hobbs I thought they were great people, and it was a situation where I didn't want to see him get fired," Haginas said. "But I couldn't have written a better story as far as who has come in here to coach. It's been great ever since, and I am really looking forward to three more years of it."

Gymnastics Outlook:

Tide Older And Better Than In '99

by Andrew Varble II

As always, national title is goal of Alabama gymnasts

They were the youngest team on the floor at last year's NCAA Championships. Six freshmen and five sophomores made up the core of the 1999 roster. The Crimson Tide didn't let its youth get in the way of having a good time though. For the 12th time in the past 14 years, Alabama finished in the nation's top-three. The Tide's youth movement skipped right over baby steps straight to flying.

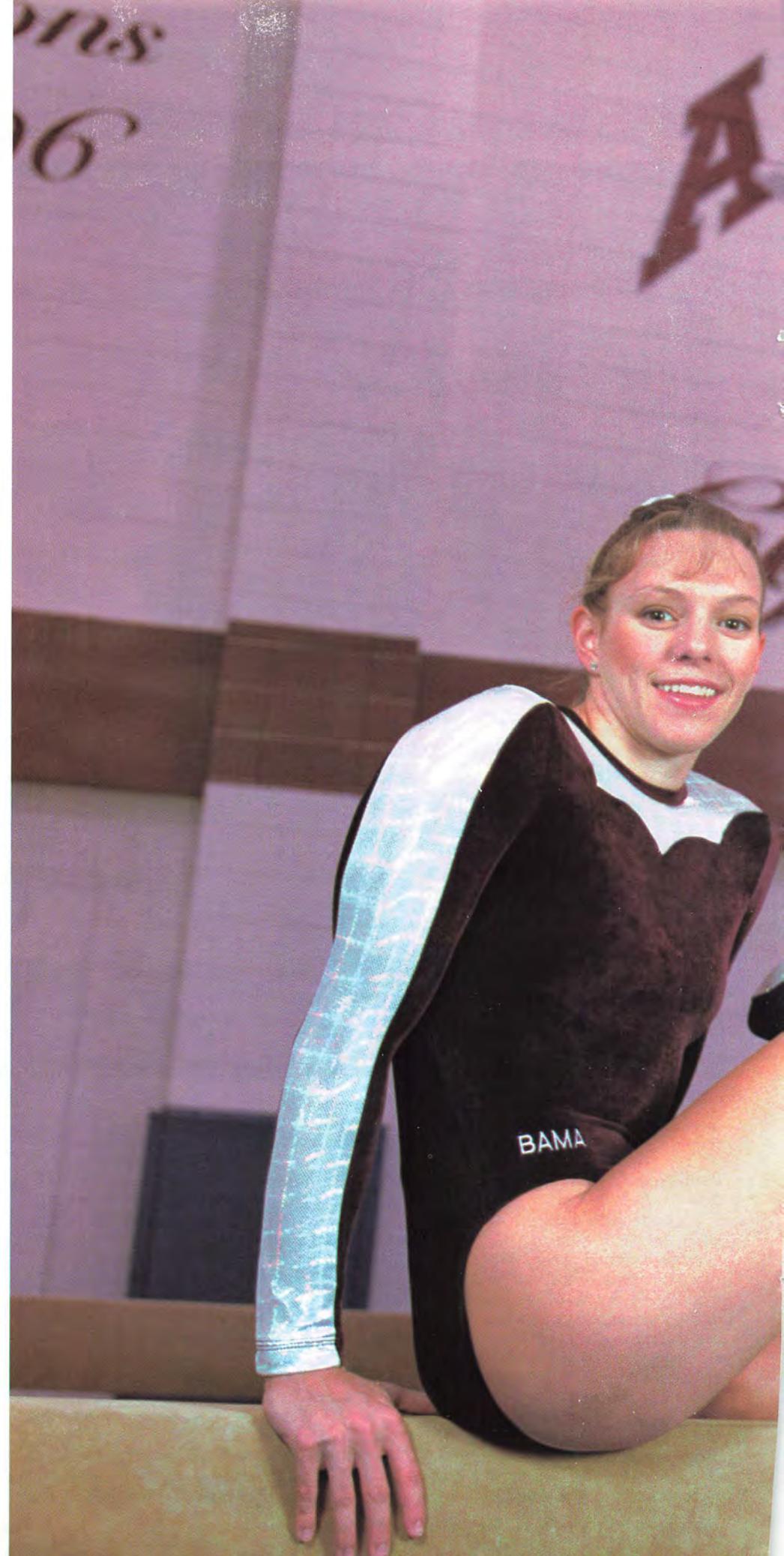
Now here's the scary part, for the competition. They're back! Alabama Gymnastics in 2000 is older, more mature, more experienced, more excited and ready to raise the roof right off of Coleman Coliseum! And with the roof off, the sky is the limit for the talented and explosive Crimson Tide allowing Alabama to soar to all new heights.

That's saying a lot considering the past success the Tide, under Coaches Sarah and David Patterson, has enjoyed over the last two decades. In addition to its phenomenal string of a dozen top-three national finishes, the Pattersons, in their 22nd season, have led the Tide to three NCAA Championships (1988, 1991, 1996) and three Southeastern Conference titles (1988, 1990, 1995). In fact, since the Tide's first NCAA Championship appearance in 1983, Patterson and crew have finished no lower than sixth, and have finished among the nation's top-four teams 16 times.

Coming off a record-breaking season, sophomore Andréé Pickens is looking to make even more noise this year. The 1999 NCAA balance beam champion and a five time All-America as a rookie, Pickens is the Tide's top returnee going into the new millennium. The Houston, Texas, native was the only athlete at last year's championships to compete in all four events, all three days, without a fall, an incredible show of stamina and dependability. She scored four tens last season, the most by a Crimson Tide rookie.

Among those expected to star for the Crimson Tide gymnastics team this year are (left to right) junior Dara Stewart, senior Lexa Evans, and junior Lissy Smith.

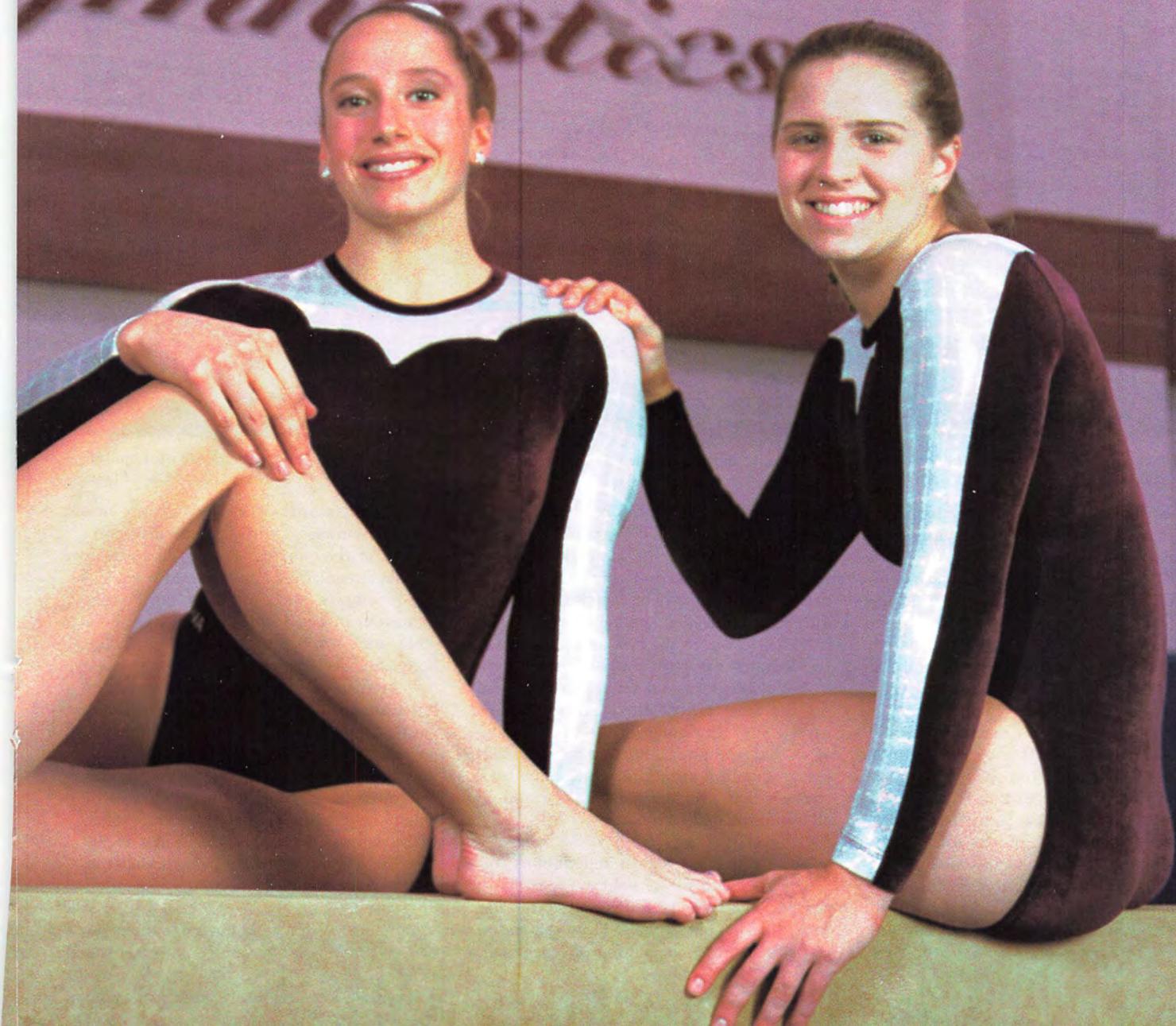
Barry Fikes Photo



LARADA

Gymnastics

So





Andree Pickens was an All-America in five events last year as a freshman. And she was NCAA champion on the balance beam. She's back to lead the Crimson Tide in 2000.

Barry Fikes Photo

Over the past two seasons junior Lissy Smith has fallen only once on gymnastics' trickiest events, the balance beam. When she is on the equipment, Alabama has no worries. An All-America last season on the balance beam and one of the Tide's 1999 captains, the Memphis, Tennessee, native will again be a leader for the Tide both on and off the floor.

Dara Stewart spent her childhood watching the Tide compete in Coleman Coliseum since she grew up in Hoover on the outskirts of Birmingham. Now she's wearing the crimson and white and putting in rock solid routines. Now a junior, Stewart is a two-time second team All-America on the balance beam. By the end of last season, she was also a steady contributor on the vault and balance beam.

Senior Lexa Evans spent most of last season in a reserve role. The Gilford, New

Hampshire, native worked hard throughout the year to be ready if she was needed. When the call came at the season's end, Evans responded with a second team All-America performance on the floor exercise, giving the Tide a much-needed spark. She returns for her final season in the best shape of her career looking to improve on last season.

Robin Hawkins and Katie Hornecker fill out the Tide's potent junior class. Hawkins earned SEC "Freshman of the Year" honors as a rookie, despite competing only half that season due to a knee injury. She came back stronger than ever last season and could go all-around again as a junior.

At this year's "Ghost and Goblins" intrasquad meet, held every year on Halloween, Hawkins and Hornecker were the top point scorers. From the end of last season to the beginning of November,

Hornecker is one of the Tide's most improved gymnasts, with a chance to contribute on three or four events. Last season she was a regular only on the vault.

Sophomores Alexa Martinez and Raegan Tomasek, integral parts of the lineup in 1999, are both looking to explode in 2000. Both could see all-around action this season.

Natalie Barrington, a native of Mississauga, Canada, is Alabama's first international gymnast. One of the nation's top uneven bars workers last season, she has adjusted to life among the Americans. She has also adjusted to the extra five inches in height, which she gained between signing with Alabama and the season's first meet. After serving as an uneven bars specialist in 1999, her role should be much expanded this season.

Sophomore Whitney Morgan was tough on two events last season and is only getting

better. Krista Gole improved steadily throughout the season and exploded down the stretch, adding key floor routines to the Tide's lineup during the championship stretch. Senior Gina Logan, the 1998 NCAA Central Regional Balance Beam Champion, continues to provide all-star depth on that event.

Freshmen Sara Scarborough and Kristin Sterner look to take up the slack created by the graduation of Mandy Chapman and Gwen Spidle, last year's All-America co-captains.

Alabama also has a pair of newcomers on the coaching staff. After two years as a gymnast, April Makinson has joined the staff side of things as a student coach. And Tom Haley, head coach of the Alabama Gymnastics Academy, is now a Bama volunteer coach.

The Pattersons have again scheduled the nation's elite. Alabama's schedule is filled with the nation's best, including defending NCAA Champion Georgia along with perennial powers UCLA, Utah, Florida, Arizona State and Penn State.

As for the Tide's goals for the 2000 season, some things never change.

"We want to get better throughout the sea-

son, day-by-day, meet-by-meet," Head Coach Sarah Patterson said. "We expect to put ourselves in such a position that on the final night of nationals we have a chance to win championship. If we do that, anything

can happen on that last night. That's the goal, that is always the goal."

Older and wiser, stronger and faster, Alabama will be raising the bar, raising expectations, and raising fan excitement levels.



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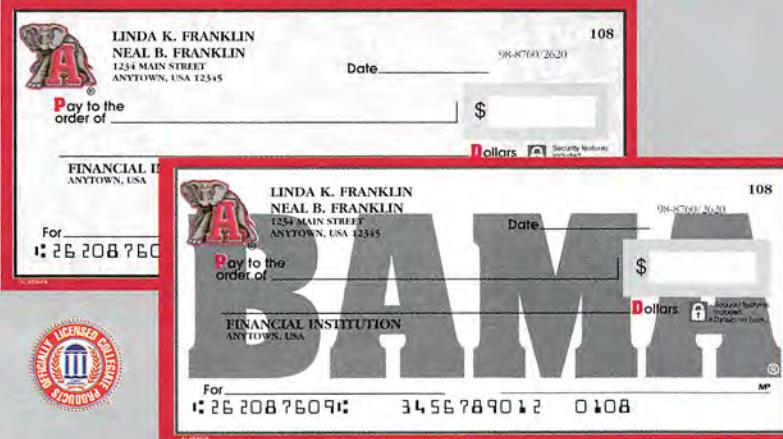
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Tide Has High Expectations

by Nori Gardner

Both men's and women's teams loaded with athletes for championship season

Does it seem as if it's always track and field season? Actually, the sport has two seasons at the college level, indoor competition and outdoor track and field. There are a few differences in events, notably in a shorter sprint indoors and more field events—particularly throwing sports such as javelin and discus—outdoors. Both seasons take place during the spring semester with indoor competition beginning in mid-January, outdoor meets starting in mid-March.

Additionally, a handful of track performers are active in the fall. Track distance runners are frequently members of the cross country team.

That makes three seasons. And at Alabama,

the men's and women's sports are separate, the men's team under Coach Harvey Glance, the women's squad under Coach Sandy Fowler, although the teams frequently participate in the same meets.

However, there is a common thread. Whether it be cross country, indoor track and field, or outdoor competition; and whether it be men or women, the goals at Alabama are very high.

Alabama will get its first taste of competition January 15 at the LSU Invitational when the indoor season begins for both the men's and women's squads.

Harvey Glance has always had high expectations for his track and field program. When Glance took over the men's track program three years ago, one of his main goals was each year to have a better team than the previous season. Glance has been able to do that so far. In 1999 the men's team finished fifth indoors and seventh outdoors at the conference championships, both improvements from the previous year. The Tide was also represented at both indoor and outdoor national championships, with nine individuals winning All-America titles, com-

pared to just one the year before. The goals for this season are very similar to the goals Glance had when he first took over the men's program, and that is to be the best. With each passing season there is improvement, and this year should be no different. Harvey Glance wants to be the best, and it appears that the track and field program at The Capstone can be considered one of the best in the Southeastern Conference this season.

"Enthusiasm is what I look for from our team in 2000," said Glance. "In the conference, our goal is to try to finish among the top four teams. That is a very tall order considering six teams from our conference rank among the top ten teams in the country. That remains my goal as a coach for this season, both indoors and outdoors. Nationally, I would like to be a top ten team on both sides, indoors and outdoors, and that's a giant climb. In just two seasons, especially when my goal was to be in the top 50 my first season at Alabama, we are talking about being in the top ten in the country in just my third season. I'm glad to see that we are making gigantic strides toward being a very successful program."

A review of Alabama's track and field season last year reveals that the Tide had an SEC Champion, several All-Americans, set new school records, and even had three individuals participate in the U.S. Track and Field Championships. All-Americans Tim Broe and Jeremy Taylor are two of the Tide's top returnees this season. Broe earned All-America honors in the 3,000 meters indoors and for the 3,000-meter steeplechase and being part of the distance medley relay outdoors. Broe's list of accomplishments last season also included setting the Alabama record in the indoor mile and winning the 5,000-meter run at the SEC Outdoor Championships. Jeremy Taylor, who earned All-America honors at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in the 200-meter dash, was a scorer for the Tide in five events at the SEC Outdoor Championships. With these two leading the way, the Tide should be a force during the championship season.

"Our top returning athletes this season are Tim Broe, Javon Dixon, Dereik Edwards, Ken Fambro, Cori Loving, Jeremy Taylor and John Williamson," said Glance. "Everyone with the exception of Javon Dixon, is a returning All-American. That means our returning squad members boast great ability. In addition, Randy Farr is part of a 3:05 mile relay team that made it to the national championships. So to say that I'm excited about our returnees is an understatement."

In Glance's second recruiting attempt he was able to sway several of the nation's best to The University of Alabama. The list of newcomers includes state champions and junior college All-Americans. This combination of youth, experience, and talent is frequently a winning recipe in athletics.

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"Our additions will make this year's team stronger," said Glance. "With Ron Bramlett, a transfer from Middle Tennessee State and the fourth best hurdler in the nation a year ago; Erroll Hickenbottom, a true freshman and the Alabama state champion in the intermediate hurdles; and Chris Mutai, who transfers from Jacksonville University who is an All-America in the 5,000 meters on our team this season, I have to say we are definitely on our way to great things."

The list doesn't stop there. Miguel Pate and Brad Teeple also are new to the team. Pate is a triple threat All-America in the high jump, long jump and triple jump, and Teeple is a high school All-America in the pole vault.

Glance said, "We stand a chance of fielding our best track and field program in two decades. This team certainly knows my goals and they are ready for this season's challenge."

In January, just before the indoor track season begins, the Tide may add some very familiar faces to their roster. "We are in hopes of having several outstanding athletes join us in the spring from the football team," said Glance. "Those who have shown interest include Jason McAddley, who was on our conference scoring relay team last season, and Shontua Ray, who was the Alabama state champion in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. I also hope that Kenny King, who was a state

champion in the shot put, will come out in the spring as well."

In just two short seasons, Harvey Glance and his coaching staff have turned the Tide around. The goals remain the same, and soon the Tide will get an opportunity to prove that it is one of the top teams this season, not only in the SEC, but in the country.

"Overall, I have very high expectations for the upcoming season," said Glance. "I pray that everyone remains healthy and gives it 110 per cent throughout the season. The sky is the limit for the Crimson Tide in 2000. Don't forget, we can also add to our arsenal in January. We have very high expectations, and I am expecting the best from everyone."

Head Women's Coach Sandy Fowler has a goal this season to be in the upper echelon at the SEC Championships and to qualify individuals and relay teams for the NCAA Championships. She really wants to put Alabama's name back in the limelight and really make something happen on the national level. In order to be successful at the SEC Championships and on the national level, every member on the team has to be dedicated and determined to be the best, she said. Fowler expects the Tide to be strong enough to score points in all areas.

"Last year the coaching staff took a real good

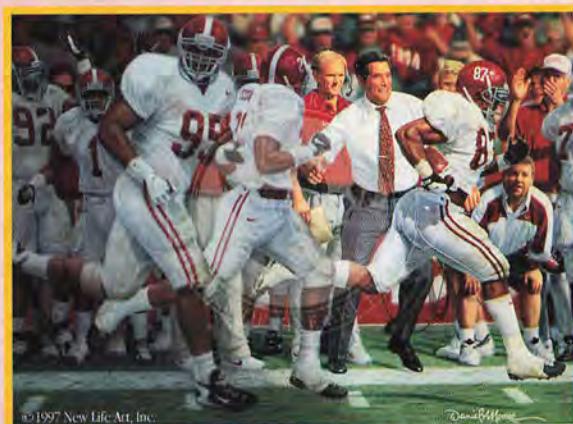
look at what was happening around the SEC," said Fowler. "The area that stood out in particular was the throwing area. Other conference schools were graduating a lot of people in that area, and that's to our advantage. We have Safiya Ingram, who redshirted last season. She was an All-SEC in the discus throw two seasons ago. Then we have Kiana Peake, who was the third place finisher in the weight throw at the SEC Indoor Championships. We have two other people in this category who competed for us last season, Halldora Jonasdottir and Janna Wren. Halldora was fourth in the javelin at the outdoor meet and Janna finished third in the hammer throw and she was an NCAA qualifier."

The Tide's list of talent is just getting started. All-Americans return for the Tide in the sprints, which is another area where Alabama can excel and score points at the conference meet. "In the sprint events, our number one returning athlete is Brandit Copper," said Fowler. "She is an NCAA indoor All-America and an NCAA outdoor qualifier where she set a personal best time. Another All-America in the sprints is Ne-Juan Bakewell (she got married in the off-season after competing last season as Ne-Juan Shaul).

"Mary Grant has really stepped up and proved that she's going to be a leader for us. Mary's strength is in the long jump, but she



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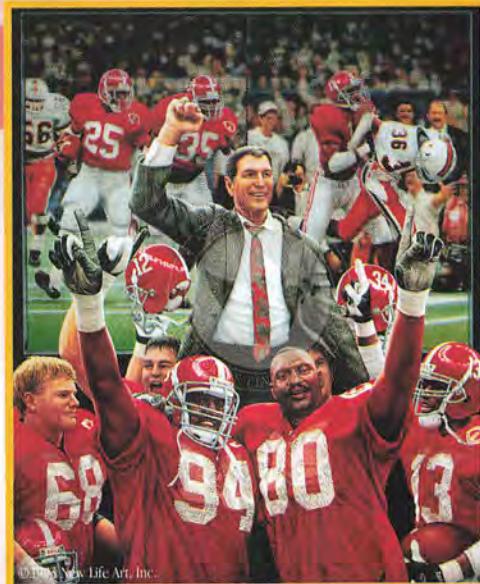
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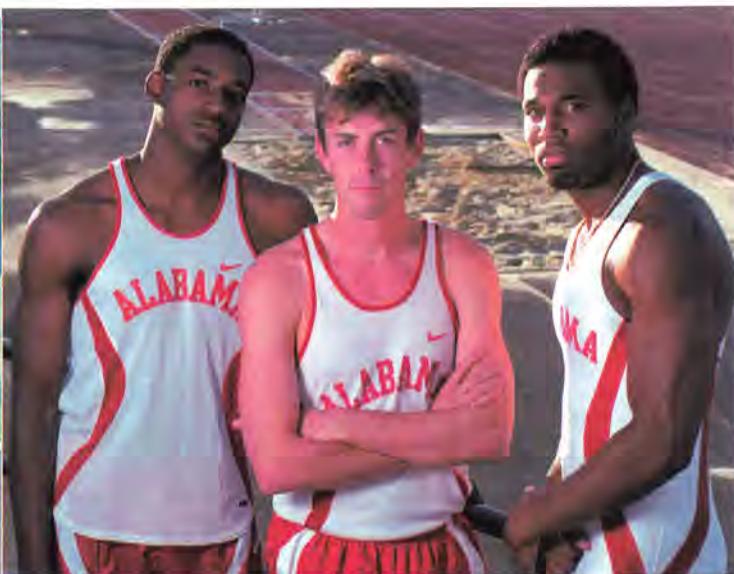
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Expected to lead Alabama's women's track and field team this year are (left to right) Brandit Cooper, Ashley LaBudde and Safiya Ingram. Top performers for the men's squad are expected to include Miguel Pate, Tim Broe and Jeremy Taylor.

will probably help our team out this year in the 60 meters indoors and the 100-meter dash outdoors and maybe the relays as well. We are going to incorporate her strengths in as many areas as possible. She can be a huge factor for us not only in the field events, but in the running events as well.

"Another sprinter, Peta-Gay Barrett, who will be competing for us for the first time, is a junior college All-America. She is definitely going to be a force to reckon with in the 60-, 100- and 200-meter dashes and the relays as well. Delilah Dillard is a returning conference scorer for us both indoors and outdoors. If Delilah continues on the same track she's on now, she can easily be a high place finisher at the conference meet and even a national qualifier. Our sprint group also includes Tulia Robinson. This year she should be a conference finalist in a couple of events and a vital part of our relay teams. Tulia has the potential to be an NCAA top-rated sprinter. Now she has to believe it, step up and belong to that position."

Another key area for the Tide is the field events. Both throwers and jumpers should really step up this season and make something happen at the conference meet. "In the jumps, our strength lies in the long jump and the triple jump," said Fowler. "SEC scorers Shun Hunter and Mary Grant return in the triple and long jumps respectively. Shun has the potential to place in the top three at the conference meet. Coming off basketball season and placing fifth at the conference meet gives you an idea of what she is capable of. In the long jump we have a double threat with Mary and Judyth Kitson. Mary can really own that event. She has the talent, ability and mind-set to be the SEC Champion and make her own way to nationals. Judyth can be a top five scorer at the conference meet."

The Crimson Tide will be fresh from cross

country season once the indoor season begins, and the Tide has a good chance of racking up several points in the distance races.

"Our distance group features (All-SEC and NCAA All-South Region honoree in cross country) Ashley LaBudde," said Fowler. "She placed second in the 10,000 meters at the SEC Outdoor Championships and then turned right around and finished second in the 5,000 meters as well. As a freshman, she was an NCAA qualifier in cross country and represented the United States in Belfast, Ireland, at the World Junior Cross Country Championships. Her goals are to qualify for nationals both indoors and outdoors. Ashley gets to competition and automatically kicks in and competes. As a result, once she gets to the NCAA competition she will be a huge factor. Another NCAA All-South Region runner is Aly Mills. She's a middle distance runner and has to be in the best shape of her life right now. Aly and Ashley should both be factors on our distance medley relay team as well. Amanda Grout is also a key factor in our distance group. This will be her first full season back (after an injury). She was an NCAA qualifier as a freshman and if she trains hard and stays confident she should be a factor for us at the conference meet and at the national meet. The biggest thing is keeping her healthy and so far she's done that. Sara Darling should also help us in the middle distance races. The first step is to get her involved in conference action again and that level of competition. I really think that in the distance races we are pretty tough."

Fowler and her staff added some of the best runners from across the nation to this season's roster. The Tide's combination of experience, youth and of talent should make them a force at the conference meet.

"Last year I think we had one of the top recruiting classes in the nation," said Fowler.

"That class included Petagay Gayle a junior college All-America. Petagay's personal best time in the 400 will easily make the NCAA Championships and should place high at the SEC Championships. She even has the potential to make the Olympic team for (her native country) Jamaica. Another addition to our roster is Bobbette Stewart who was Peta-Gay Barrett's teammate at Central Arizona. Bobbette ran cross country in order to aid in training for the middle distance races. I really think that she is going to be a surprise to a lot of people in this season's championship races. There are also four true freshmen on the roster. Dawn Boggs was our number one or number two runner in every cross country meet this season. She was the Indiana state runner-up in cross country. She has proven that she can compete against the best in the SEC and with some of the best in the country just by her performance with the cross country team this season. Dawn is going to be a vital part of our distance medley relay team and will be very competitive for us during the championship season. Additional middle distance runners for us include freshmen Katie Braune and Katie Kelly. Our last true freshman is Natalie Kinion. Natalie is what you might call a sleeper in the throwing events. She is one of the most explosive athletes to come into our program. She has the potential to score points for us at the SEC Championships in the shot put, discus and the weight throw, and that's saying a lot for a freshman. Our goal is to get her qualified for the NCAA Championships in the shot put just to give her a taste of what the national meet is like. I think we are a very well rounded team this year. We have the capabilities to get points at the conference meet from every aspect of track and field. If you are going to win you have to be able to get points from all areas at the SEC Championships, from each athlete and from every place possible."

Prep Prospects:

South Always Has Skilled Stars

by James Edwards

Here is a look at some top skill players in the South

The true game-breakers on any college football team are usually located in the slots of quarterback, running back, wide receiver, or defensive back. Coaches search long and far for the best athletes available to fill these positions. The definition of a game-breaker (i.e., David Palmer, Deion Sanders) is a player who can turn the game around either just by his presence (which makes the opponent change its tendencies) or by the ability to make big plays consistently. The quarterback slot is perhaps the most vital of the skill positions because he is the leader of the team, plus his performance determines the production of two of the other skill slots (running back and wide receiver). Colleges have been known to make tremendous jumps in victories on the field simply by increasing the level of skilled athletes on the team. While the saying, "You can never have enough big men" is absolutely true, the same can be said for skill position players. Obviously, the team with an abundance of skill and size is the team to beat.

In this installment of our look at top prospects, skill position players from throughout the region are profiled. As is always the case, these are prospects who have been identified by various recruiting publications and other news sources, and not all are necessarily interested in Alabama; nor is the Crimson Tide necessarily interested in all of them. Moreover, it is quite likely that there are other prospects who have the attention of Bama recruiters who are not named here.

An educated guess at the recruiting needs of the Crimson Tide this year is that among skill position players, Alabama will be interested primarily in wide receivers and defensive backs, and, specifically among the latter, those who can play safety. The state of Alabama has only a handful of skilled athletes who are considered major college prospects-Triandos Luke, Corey Larkins,



Harold James

Derrian Walker, Jonathan Jackerson, Zach Kaye, Matthew Sanders. Therefore, bordering states become hunting grounds for Crimson Tide coaches on the lookout for future Bama players.

Here, by states and in alphabetical order, is a look at some skill position players who are at the top of most recruiting lists:

ARKANSAS

Harold James, strong safety, 6-1, 215, 4.45 from Osceola High School in Osceola, Arkansas, is of particular interest since he has announced that he has selected Alabama over Arkansas, Tennessee and Ole Miss. He is also of interest because he is considered the top player in the state of Arkansas. He is a dynamo at both running back and strong safety. He rushed for 1443 yards and 19 touchdowns, while defensively he had 101 tackles, 58 assists, and six interceptions (two returned for touchdowns). He may grow into a linebacker in college, but he has the mental makeup to be a great one.

Landon Trusty, quarterback, 6-7, 227, 5.0 from Lakeside High School in Hot Springs, Arkansas, is easily the best quarterback in the state, and one of the best pure passers in the entire South. He filled the air with footballs to a tune of 2209 yards and 18 touchdowns. He is a true passer who makes good reads, accurate throws, and also changes the play when necessary. He has narrowed his choices to Arkansas, Michigan, Alabama, and Louisiana Tech.

FLORIDA

Carlos Andrews, strong safety, 6-0, 195, 4.5 from Godby High School in Tallahassee, has also committed to Alabama, picking the Crimson Tide over Florida State, Florida, Arkansas, Auburn and Georgia. He is considered by everyone to be the top prospect in the Tallahassee area this year. He is capable of playing either running back or strong safety in college. He rushed for 1128 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior, while he racked up 84 tackles, four sacks, and two interceptions (one returned for touchdown) defensively. He hails from a school that generally produces great players and this year is no exception. He has been injured some his senior year but that didn't stop the scholarship offers from coming.

Jarraud Bell, cornerback, 6-0, 185, 4.42 from Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, is expected to be a college cornerback. He comes from the same school as 1999 Tide signee Gerard Clark. Jarraud had 65 tackles and five interceptions as a junior, and he excels in bump and run coverage. He also is a super kick and punt returner who has six touchdowns in his career. He is interested in Florida State, Miami, Alabama, Nebraska, and Clemson.

Craig Candeto, quarterback, 5-11, 190, 4.5 from DeLand High School in DeLand, is a sensational athlete. He could play numerous positions, but is expected to be either a cornerback or receiver in college. In the right offense he could play quarterback. He passed for 1054 yards and 13 touchdowns, while he rushed for 956 yards and 18 touchdowns. He is getting looks from Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Miami.

Burt Clark, quarterback, 6-5, 220, 4.6 from Palm Bay High School in Melbourne, is a high-powered lefty who is poised and calm in the pocket. He is an accurate passer whose completion percentage was 62 per cent. He passed for 1304 yards and 15 touchdowns as a junior. He also is a major talent in baseball and could likely be drafted. That will force a decision of which sport will he play. He says he will go to a college that will allow him to play both sports. He likes Tennessee, Florida, Florida State, Alabama, and Central Florida.

Chad Clark, wide receiver, 6-4, 200, 4.45 from Fort Meade High School in Fort Meade, is on the verge of becoming a star. He had eight touchdown receptions as a junior with limited opportunities. He is interested in UCF, USF, Tennessee, Alabama, and Miami.

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There's no charge and you get daily reports from 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair (who answers questions and also hosts regular chats) and information from regional and national experts.

Clenton Crossley, running back, 5-10, 207, 4.39 from South Sumter High School in Bushnell, is a combination break-away and power runner. He rushed for 1388 yards and 22 touchdowns as a junior. He will choose from the likes of Florida State, Florida, Alabama, Central Florida, and South Florida.

Scott Crouch, quarterback, 6-4, 218, 4.7 from Navarre High School in Navarre, is thought to be the man Bama will sign if the Tide is to sign a quarterback this year. (Why would there be any question about that? Brodie Croyle will be a senior next year.) Crouch passed for 700 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior in very limited opportunities. He plays for a relatively new program that is playing just its first year with senior football players. He is leaning to Alabama over Florida, LSU, Tulane, and Southern Mississippi.

Jamie Farmer, cornerback, 5-11, 185, 4.5 from Rutherford High School in Springfield, is a prep safety. He possesses great speed and terrific instincts. He had 82 tackles and four interceptions as a junior. He is very strong for a defensive back (bench press 315). He likes Alabama, Georgia, Tulane, Central Florida, and Miami.

Cortlandt Florence, running back, 5-11,

184, 4.4 from Forest High School in Ocala, rushed for 1300 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior. He also is the perfect athlete to move over and play cornerback in college. He has excellent strength and he should qualify. He is interested in Syracuse, Michigan, Ohio State, Alabama, and Texas A&M.

Tarry Givens, wide receiver, 6-5, 200, 4.3 from Godby High School in Tallahassee, a very tall receiver, is even more challenging because he has a 36-inch vertical jump. He is a matchup problem for most cornerbacks and he proved it with 29 receptions, 465 yards, and eight touchdowns. His scholarship offers have been limited due to academics, but he is going to be recruited heavily. He probably will not qualify, but he will be signed and placed by some school; perhaps Alabama, Florida State, Tennessee, Florida, and Auburn are also in the hunt.

Willie Green, running back, 5-9, 200, 4.39 from Osceola High School in Kissimmee, is a player whose name has been on the charts of recruiters for the past two seasons. He runs much like Emmitt Smith between the tackles, and when he hits the clear, he has the speed to go the distance. He is the Florida Class 5A and Central Florida Player of the Year. He rushed for 2650 yards and 35 touchdowns as a junior even after coming

off arthroscopic knee surgery as a sophomore. He is getting looks from just about everyone including Florida, Florida State, Miami, Georgia, Alabama, LSU, Ohio State, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maryland, Clemson, and Missouri.

Alex Haynes, running back, 5-10, 200, 4.4 from Evans High School in Orlando, was named the *Orlando News-Sentinel* Offensive and Overall Player of the Year. He is a speed rusher who has that extra gear, plus he has a great stiff arm. He rushed for 1670 yards and 17 touchdowns as a junior while missing a few games. He ranks among the top four running backs in Florida. He is interested in LSU, FSU, Miami, Alabama, Clemson, South Carolina, Auburn, and Georgia Tech.

Rodney Johnson, running back, 5-9, 185, 4.4 from Columbia High School in Lake City, has emerged as a senior after rushing for over 400 yards and three touchdowns as a junior. He is an elusive runner who can break the big one. He has good strength but still must qualify. He is hearing from UCF, Alabama, Pittsburgh, Georgia, Arkansas, and South Carolina.

Tre Orr, free safety, 6-2, 198, 4.38 from Columbia High School in Lake City, was considered by many as the best two-way player in Florida before his season-ending

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knee injury. He thinks he will play cornerback in college, but most feel he will be either a receiver or free safety. He produced 75 tackles, three interceptions, and allowed just 10 receptions against him as a junior. He is also a fine receiver who had 17 receptions for over 300 yards and seven touchdowns. He is already qualified and is studying Florida State, Alabama, Tennessee, Notre Dame, Syracuse, Georgia Tech, Miami, and Georgia.

Nick Reid, fullback, 6-1, 220, 4.6 from Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando, is a prep tailback who rushed for 830 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior. He is looking at Florida State, Oklahoma State, Missouri, Alabama, and UAB.

Jason Roulhac, quarterback, 6-3, 235, 4.7 from Walton County High School in Defuniak Springs., plays strictly from the shotgun offense. He has passed for 3100 yards and 32 touchdowns. He is considering Florida, Florida State, Central Florida, Georgia Tech, Alabama, and Auburn.

Brandon Sumner, quarterback, 6-3, 205, 4.51 from Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, was the Volusia County Offensive Player of the Year as a junior after he led his team to the quarterfinals. He passed for 1700 yards and 19 touchdowns, while rushing for 670 yards and nine touchdowns. He is already qualified and will choose between Notre Dame, Michigan, UCF, Michigan State, Colorado, USC, South Carolina, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Alabama, Louisville, and Vanderbilt.

Daniel Thomas, wide receiver, 6-8, 210, 4.5 from Baker High School, missed much of his junior season with a heart condition. This tallest of wide receivers did have 15 receptions for 240 yards and four touchdowns in just four games. He is also a cornerback on defense. He is not a well known commodity at present, but the likes of Alabama, Cincinnati (his brother's school), Auburn, Florida, and Rice have found him.



Yohance Buchanan

Ronnie Thomas, wide receiver, 5-11, 190, 4.4 from Shanks High School in Quincy, is one of the most dangerous receivers in the South after the catch. He loves to take that underneath route and slither his way through your defense. As a junior he had 45 receptions for 1045 yards and 14 touchdowns. He is a third team all-state selection who can go up in a crowd and come down with the ball (35-inch vertical jump). Once thought to be leaning to Alabama, he now favors Clemson over Florida State, Florida, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, and the Tide.

Carl Walker, free safety, 6-3, 195, 4.52 from Jackson High School in Jacksonville, is the number one player in Jacksonville. He ranks among the top free safety prospects in the Sunshine State and across the South as well. He had 60 tackles and four interceptions as a junior. He was so aggressive from his safety spot that some colleges have tim-

bered with the idea of making him a linebacker. He favors Florida State, Florida, Georgia, Miami, Tennessee, Alabama, and Clemson.

GEORGIA

Evan Benson, running back, 5-10, 185, 4.5 from Pope High School in Marietta, is known as the "E-Train" and he rushed for 1008 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior. He has very good speed, and he catches the ball well out of the backfield. He is considering Auburn, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Florida, and Maryland.

Yohance Buchanan, strong safety, 6-1, 210, 4.5 from Douglass High School in Atlanta, is the number one player in Georgia and the best safety prospect in the South, perhaps the nation. He was Atlanta's Defensive player of the Year after a stellar junior campaign in which he had 67 tackles and 10 interceptions. He is a four-year starter. The good news is that he is the brother of Bama's Shamari Buchanan. The bad news is that he has committed to Florida State. However, other schools, including Alabama, Tennessee, Michigan, and Ohio State are staying in touch with Yohance.

Alex Godfrey, running back, 5-9, 185, 4.46 from Valdosta High School in Valdosta, played his junior year at Niceville High School in Florida where he was named the league's Offensive MVP after rushing for 2086 yards and 30 touchdowns. He is the cousin of former Georgia and present Dallas Cowboys linebacker, Randall Godfrey. He transferred to Valdosta where he joined forces with Karl Walker to provide the state's best one-two backfield punch. He has interest in Georgia, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, and Florida State.

Wesley Heath, free safety, 6-1, 191, 4.52 from Wheeler High School in Marietta, plays for a team that has developed two very good safeties (Byron Capers of FSU and Lester Norwood of Florida). Heath posted 110

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tackles and two interceptions as a junior, but he also displayed an aggressiveness that colleges loved. He is getting recruited by Florida State, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia Tech.

Trey Hunter, free safety, 6-0, 180, 4.5 from Effingham County High School in Springfield, is a high school quarterback who is being projected as a defensive back. He passed for 1200 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior. He is already qualified and is looking at Clemson, Georgia Tech, Alabama, Auburn, and Georgia Southern.

Kelvin Kight, wide receiver, 6-0, 185, 4.5 from Lithonia High School, is easily the state's best receiver and a wideout who ranks among the South's top three. He has a silky-smooth stride, soft hands, and great speed. He caught 52 passes as a junior for 1200 yards and 12 touchdowns. He should be a qualifier, and he is considering Florida State, Michigan, Georgia Tech, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and North Carolina.

Durand Rice, running back, 5-10, 205, 4.55 from Landmark Christian High School in Fairburn, is a prep quarterback who specializes in running. He finished his junior year with 812 yards and 11 touchdowns. He is getting looks from Georgia, Vanderbilt, Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, and Georgia Southern.

Brandon Russell, running back, 5-11, 185,

4.4 from Marist High School in Atlanta, finished his junior year with 872 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns while sharing the backfield load with two other backs. He also is a talented baseball player who may be drafted. He is qualified and is considering Georgia Tech, Georgia, Stanford, Michigan, Miami, Alabama, Duke, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Karl Walker, running back, 5-11, 225, 4.5 from Valdosta High School in Valdosta, is originally from Riverside, California. He rushed for 1101 yards and 16 touchdowns. He should qualify and he is looking at Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, USC, Alabama, and Nebraska.

Donnay Young, athlete, 6-0, 183, 4.4 from North Clayton High School in College Park, plays virtually every skill position on the field. He had 75 tackles and four interceptions as a junior, while he played all four positions in the secondary. He is being evaluated by Auburn, Clemson, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida.

KENTUCKY

Quinton Henson, running back, 6-2, 210, 4.57 from Lynn Camp High School in Corbin, might not be considered a Bama prospect except for the fact that the last time the Crimson Tide went to the Bluegrass State for a running back, it came away with Shaun Alexander. Alabama is one of several

schools on the list of this big bruising back who is challenging the state rushing records. He rushed for 2391 yards and 30 touchdowns as a junior, which gave him 5300 yards and 70 touchdowns for his career. He still needs to qualify, but he is considering Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Ohio State.

LOUISIANA

Demaine Clark, strong safety, 6-1, 204, 4.49 from Ouachita Parish High School in Monroe, has the physical makeup to move to linebacker in college. He is interested in Arkansas, LSU, Tennessee, Alabama, and Auburn.

Devery Henderson, running back, 6-1, 185, 4.3 from Opelousas High School, rushed for 1247 yards and 17 touchdowns as a junior. He has the ability to be a feature back in a collegiate running game. He is a full qualifier who is considering LSU, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Florida State, and Florida.

Ronald McClendon, running back, 5-8, 176, 4.25 from Ponchatoula High School, is a multiple threat because he rushed for 975 yards and 12 touchdowns, while he caught passes for over 500 yards and seven touchdowns. He is a 10.1 100-meter guy. He surprised many with an early commitment to Tulane, but Florida State, Alabama, Tennessee, and others continue to show interest.

MISSISSIPPI

Jonathan Bell, free safety, 6-0, 188, 4.43 from Tupelo High School, is a combination cornerback / free safety who could line up at either in college. He led his team in tackles with 97. He also had five interceptions. He has major interest in Alabama, South Carolina, LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Memphis.

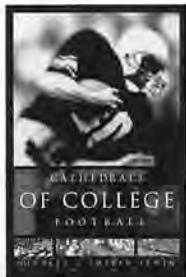
Ray Ray Bivens, athlete, 6-0, 163, 4.4 from Gautier High School, is best-suited for either receiver or cornerback, but he plays quarterback in high school. He is leaning to LSU, but if there is a shake up on the Bayou, look for Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, and Southern Miss to try to capitalize.

Trey Fryfogle, wide receiver, 6-2, 175, 4.5 from George County High School in Lucedale, snagged 43 passes for 962 yards and nine touchdowns. His total offense his junior year was 1682 yards. He is easily qualified and favors Ole Miss and Florida over LSU, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida State, and Auburn.

Thurman Ward, free safety, 6-2, 180, 4.5 from Starkville High School, is one of the best free safeties in Mississippi. He is athletic and intelligent. He shouldered his way to 75 tackles as a junior with three interceptions and four fumble recoveries (two returned for touchdown). He is a projected qualifier who is leaning to Alabama over Mississippi State, Tennessee, LSU, and South Carolina.

Cornelius Wortham, free safety, 6-2, 190, 4.41 from Calhoun City High School, is another stellar free safety who has the ability

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to move up to strong safety or even further up and play linebacker. He is a physical player who had 101 tackles, 21 for loss, and two interceptions. He is a three-year starter who is already qualified. He favors Alabama over LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Kentucky.

Chris Young, athlete, 6-2, 180, 4.4 from South Panola High School in Batesville. When you talk about athletes this player has to rank somewhere near the top. He is the heart and soul of one of Mississippi's most elite programs. He plays quarterback and he led his team to the state championship as a junior. He rushed for 1159 yards and 22 touchdowns, while passing for 490 yards and three touchdowns. He will likely play a safety position in college but he could line up at most skill slots. He ranks among the state's top three players and is already qualified. He is favoring Alabama over Ole Miss, Vanderbilt (brother's team), Tennessee, Auburn, and Mississippi State.

TENNESSEE

Leonard Burress, cornerback, 5-10, 180, 4.4 from Trezevant High School in Memphis, is perhaps the best cover corner in the Volunteer State and a player who is not riding the publicity of teammate Albert Means. This guy is a prospect in his own right. He can go bump and run, or play matchup zone as effectively as any in the South. He had 77 tackles and five interceptions as a junior. He is hearing from Kentucky, Michigan State, Mississippi State, Auburn, Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

James Griffin, strong safety, 6-3, 187, 4.57 from East High School in Memphis, was the Region Defensive Player of the Year as a junior after a banner season in which he had 88 tackles and 29 sacks as a prep defensive end and outside linebacker. He is hearing from Ohio State, Georgia, Alabama,



Chris Young

Tennessee, Mississippi State, Auburn, and Illinois.

Corey Hicks, running back, 6-2, 210, 4.5 from Whitehaven High School in Memphis, is a budding star who will either be a running back or move over to defense and play safety. His name is starting to surface on many college lists. He is already getting attention from Tennessee, Alabama, Ole Miss, Memphis, and Arkansas.

Antwoine Lias, wide receiver, 6-2, 175, 4.5 from Melrose High School in Memphis, is the top receiving prospect in West Tennessee. Last year he teamed with Alabama signee Derrick Woods to win the state championship. He grabbed 60 passes for 1090 yards and 14 touchdowns as a junior, plus he had 80 tackles and eight inter-

ceptions. He is interested in Michigan, Alabama, Ohio State, Florida State, and Tennessee.

Donnie Lowe, fullback, 6-2, 235, 4.79 from LaVergne High School, is featured here at fullback (100 carries, 819 yards, eight touchdowns as senior), although he may be an inside linebacker in college. And that college will be Alabama. He punished runners to a tone of 140 tackles and two sacks as a senior, and that was on top of 88 tackles his junior year. He had committed to Vanderbilt after summer football camps, but recently received an offer from Alabama, and decided to Roll with the Tide.

Anton Thomison, wide receiver, 6-3, 175, 4.5 from Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, had a banner senior year. His junior year was impressive as well. He had only eight receptions but they were for 135 yards and five touchdowns. He has had a breakout year as a senior with 37 receptions for 1012 yards and 13 touchdowns through nine games. He had 52 tackles and eight interceptions as a junior and that has some colleges thinking safety. He is getting interest from Tennessee, Alabama, Nebraska, Memphis, Florida, Texas, Penn State, and MTSU.

Gerald Turner, running back, 5-11, 188, 4.47 from Portland High School, gained 1775 yards and 30 touchdowns as a junior, but the most amazing statistic was his 14.5 yards per carry average. He received the Mr Football award in his classification. He likes Alabama, Mississippi State, LSU, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ole Miss.

TEXAS

Gary Allen, running back, 5-11, 210, 4.4 from Sterling High School in Baytown, had 1055 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior. He has shown interest in Alabama, Texas, Texas A&M, Notre Dame, Michigan State, and TCU.

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1999-2000 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date/	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
UA 85	Next Level (Exh.)	87 (2OT)
80	B.C. Siroki (Exh.)	70
Earth Grains Classic @ St. Louis, Missouri		
73	Northern Iowa	74
70	St. Louis	78
Nov. 19	Weber State	7:00
Nov. 22	Tennessee Tech	7:00
Alabama Invitational @ Coleman Coliseum		
Nov. 26	Centenary	TBA
Nov. 27	LaSalle or Highpoint	TBA
Dec. 2	Samford (SportsSouth TV)	7:00
Dec. 11	@ Louisville	TBA
Dec. 18	Tennessee-Chattanooga (Fox SportsSouth TV)	1:00
@ Von Braun Center, Huntsville		
Dec. 21	Alabama A&M	7:00
Fiesta Bowl Classic @ Tucson, Arizona		
Dec. 28	Delaware	7:00
Dec. 30	Arizona or NC-Wilmington	TBA
Jan. 5	@ LSU	7:00
Jan. 8	Mississippi State	7:00
Jan. 15	@ Georgia (J-P TV)	1:30 or 4:00
Jan. 19	Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 22	Florida (Pay-Per-View)	7:00
Jan. 29	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 2	@ Auburn (CSSE TV)	7:00
Feb. 5	LSU	7:00
Feb. 9	@ Arkansas (J-P TV)	7:00
Feb. 12	Vanderbilt	7:00
Feb. 16	@ Kentucky (J-P TV)	7:00
Feb. 19	@ South Carolina	6:30
Feb. 22	Auburn (ESPN TV)	6:00
Feb. 26	Tennessee (J-P TV)	1:00
March 1	@ Ole Miss	7:00
March 4	@ Mississippi State	2:00
Southeastern Conference Tournament		
March 9-12	@ Atlanta	TBA

Men's Swimming

Date/	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
UA Score		
135.5	Northeast Louisiana	95.5
84	LSU	154
Nov. 19	@ Auburn	5:00
Dec. 2-4	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 4	@ Florida	11:00
Jan. 8	Penn State	1:00
Jan. 22	@ Clemson	1:00
Jan. 29	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Auburn	
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone @ Auburn	
Mar. 23-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 25	@ Minneapolis	
Mar. 28-	USS National Championships	
April 1	@ Federal Way, Wash.	
April 2-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 4	@ Athens	
April 13-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 18	@ TBA	

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
UA	Opp.	
94	Mississippi All-Stars (Exh.)	82
76	Slovan Bartislavia (Exh.)	67
Nov. 19	Michigan State Holiday Classic St. John's	5:00
Nov. 20	Mich. St or Appalachian St	TBA
Nov. 23	Samford Cancun (Mexico) Basketball Tournament	7:00
Nov. 26	Kansas State	7:30
Nov. 27	Drake	7:30
Nov. 30	South Alabama	7:00
Dec. 2@	Tulane	7:00
Dec. 5@	Akron	6:00
Dec. 11	Alabama A&M	7:00
Dec. 20	St. Mary's Christmas Classic @ Moraga, Cal. Canisius, St. Mary's or Missouri-Kansas City	TBA
Dec. 21	Finals	TBA
Dec. 29	@ Memphis	7:00
Jan. 6	Belmont	7:00
Jan. 9	Georgia	2:00
Jan. 13	@ Auburn	7:00
Jan. 20	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 23	Mississippi State	2:00
Jan. 27	Kentucky	7:00
Jan. 30	Ole Miss	2:00
Feb. 3@	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 6	@ Tennessee	2:00
Feb. 10	LSU	7:00
Feb. 13	Auburn (Fox SportsSouth)	2:00
Feb. 17	@ South Carolina	6:00
Feb. 20	Vanderbilt	2:00
Feb. 24	@ Georgia	6:00
Feb. 27	@ Florida	2:00
Southeastern Conference Tournament		
March 2-5	@ Chattanooga	TBA

Women's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (CT)
UA Score	Opp. Score	
90	Northeast Louisiana	23
92	Georgia Southern	21
101.5	LSU	139.5
Nov. 19	@ Auburn	5:00
Dec. 2-4	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 4	@ Florida	11:00
Jan. 8	Penn State	1:00
Jan. 22	@ Clemson	1:00
Jan. 29	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Auburn	
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone @ Auburn	
Mar. 16-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 18	@ Indianapolis	
Mar. 28-	USS National Championships	
April 1	@ Federal Way, Wash.	
April 2-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 4	@ Athens	
April 13-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 18	@ TBA	

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
Jan. 2	Excite Night (Intrasquad)	2:00
Jan. 8	Super Six Kickoff @ Athens, Georgia (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, UCLA, Michigan, Northeastern)	5:30
Jan. 15	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 21	Florida	7:00
Jan. 28	@ Georgia (ESPN)	6:30
Jan. 30	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 4	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 11	North Carolina	7:00
Feb. 18	Arizona State Invitational @ Tempe, Arizona (Alabama, Arizona State, Minnesota, Utah)	8:00
Feb. 25	@ Kentucky	6:30
March 4	Georgia (SportsSouth)	7:00
March 11	Penn State	7:00
March 18	SEC Championships @ Gainesville	
April 1	NCAA Central Regional	
April 13-	NCAA Championships	
April 15	@ Boise, Idaho	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexington (Alabama, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Notre Dame Classic @ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexington (Alabama, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Cannon IV @ Indianapolis
Feb. 11	Virginia Tech Invitational @ Blacksburg
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

Schedules Of Alabama's 1999 Opponents

Team	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn. (Alabama leads series, 54-19-4)	ALABAMA JPTV 17-28	Northern Illinois 34-31	@ Ole Miss 37-34 (OT)	Mississippi State 14-42	The Citadel 58-0	Georgia 17-27	@ South Carolina 11-10			@ Florida 6-13	Kentucky 17-19		@ Tennessee
HOUSTON Cougars Houston, Texas (Alabama leads series, 8-0-0)	ALABAMA (Birmingham) JPTV 10-37	Rice 28-3	Southwestern Louisiana 45-0	@ UAB 10-29	Cincinnati 23-20	@ North Carolina 20-12	@ Louisville 33-39	East Carolina 3-19	Tulane 36-31	@ LSU 20-7	@ Army		
LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs Ruston, La. (Alabama leads series, 3-1-0)	LOUISIANA TECH	Aug. 28 Sept. 4 Texas A&M 17-37	Sam Houston State 55-17	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 29-28	Southwestern Louisiana 41-31			Middle Tennessee 42-18	@ Central Florida 49-35	@ Toledo 34-17	Louisiana-Monroe 58-17	@ UAB 41-20	Dec. 2 @ Southern Cal
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark. (Alabama leads series, 6-3-0)	ARKANSAS	@ SMU 26-0	Northeast Louisiana @ Little Rock 44-6	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 28-35 CBS TV	@ Kentucky 20-31	Middle Tennessee 58-6	South Carolina @ Little Rock 48-14	Auburn 34-10	@ Ole Miss 16-38	Tennessee 28-24	Mississippi State @ Little Rock	@ LSU	
FLORIDA Gators Gainesville, Fla. (Alabama leads series, 17-11-0)	FLORIDA	Central Florida 58-27	Tennessee 23-21	@ Kentucky 38-10	ALABAMA (OT) CBS-TV	@ LSU 31-10	@ Auburn 32-14	Georgia @ Jacksonville 30-14	Vanderbilt 13-6	@ South Carolina 20-3	FSU		
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss. (Alabama leads series, 37-7-2)	OLE MISS	Western Michigan 55-26	Arkansas State 38-14	Vanderbilt 34-37 (OT)	@ Auburn 24-17 (OT)	@ South Carolina 36-10	Tulane 20-13	ALABAMA 24-30 CBS-TV	@ LSU 42-23	Arkansas 38-16		Georgia	Nov. 25 @ Mississippi State
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn. (Alabama leads series, 42-31-7)	TENNESSEE	Wyoming 42-17	@ Florida 21-23	Vanderbilt 17-16	Auburn 24-0	Georgia 37-20			@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 21-7 CBS-TV	South Carolina 30-7	Notre Dame 38-14	@ Arkansas 24-28	
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss. (Alabama leads series, 28-4-2)	SOUTHERN MISS	Sept. 5 Tulane 48-14	Northwestern Louisiana 40-6	@ Nebraska 13-20	@ Texas A&M 9-23	@ East Carolina 39-22	Army 24-0	Cincinnati 28-20	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 14-35	@ Memphis 20-5	Southwestern Louisiana 48-0	@ Louisville	Vanderbilt
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La. (Alabama leads series, 40-16-5)	LSU	San Jose State 29-21	North Texas 52-0	Auburn 7-41	@ Georgia 22-23	Florida 10-31	@ Kentucky 5-31	Mississippi State 16-17	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 17-23 JPTV	Ole Miss 23-42	Houston 7-20		Arkansas
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss. (Alabama leads series, 66-13-3)	MISSISSIPPI STATE	Middle Tennessee 40-7	Memphis 13-10	Oklahoma State 29-11	South Carolina 17-0	Vanderbilt 41-14	@ Auburn 18-16	LSU 17-16	Kentucky 23-22		@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 7-19 CBS-TV	Arkansas @ Little Rock	Nov. 25 Ole Miss
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala. (Alabama leads series, 35-26-1)	AUBURN	Appalachian State 22-15	Idaho 30-23	@ LSU 7-41	Ole Miss 17-24 (OT)	Tennessee 0-24	Mississippi State 16-18	Florida 14-32	@ Arkansas 10-34	Central Florida 28-10	@ Georgia 38-21	ALABAMA 6:30 ESPN	

'BAMA Magazine's Team of the Decade Ballot

Offense (Check name on ballot or write in a choice)

QUARTERBACK (Choose 1)

- Jay Barker
- Freddie Kitchens
- Andrew Zow
- _____

CENTER (Choose 1)

- John Causey
- Paul Hogan
- Tobie Sheils
- Roger Shultz
- _____

PLACEKICKER (Choose 1)

- Philip Doyle
- Michael Proctor
- _____

TAILBACK (Choose 1)

- Curtis Alexander
- Shaun Alexander
- Derrick Lassic
- Dennis Riddle
- Siran Stacy
- Sherman Williams
- _____

LINEMAN (Choose 4)

- Maurice Belser
- Terrill Chatman
- John Clay
- Will Cuthbert
- Pete DiMario
- Will Friend
- Matt Hammond
- Joey Harville
- Joel Holliday
- Roosevelt Patterson
- Griff Redmill
- Chris Robinette
- Chris Samuels
- Sage Spree
- Jon Stevenson
- Laron White
- George Wilson
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

WIDE RECEIVER (Choose 2)

- Tim Bowens
- Curtis Brown
- Shamari Buchanan
- Calvin Hall
- Quincy Jackson
- Chad Key
- Kevin Lee
- Jason McAddley
- Freddie Milons
- David Palmer
- Michael Vaughn
- Prince Wimbley
- _____
- _____

TIGHT END (Choose 1)

- Steve Busky
- Patrick Hape
- Tony Johnson
- Terry Jones
- Rod Rutledge
- _____

Defense (Check name on ballot or write in a choice)

LINEMAN (Choose 4)

- Shannon Brown
- Kendrick Burton
- John Copeland
- Eric Curry
- James Gregory
- Cornelius Griffin
- Byron Holdbrooks
- Chris Hood
- Dameian Jeffries
- Kelvin Moore
- Kindal Moorehead
- Michael Myers
- Jeremy Nunley
- Ozell Powell
- Kenny Smith
- Robert Stewart
- George Thornton
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

LINEBACKER (Choose 3)

- Fernando Davis
- Lemanski Hall
- Spencer Hammond
- Canary Knight
- Antonio London
- Miguel Merritt
- Derrick Oden
- Michael Rogers
- André Royal
- Dwayne Rudd
- Ralph Staten
- John Sullins
- John Walters
- Steve Webb
- _____
- _____
- _____

DEFENSIVE BACK (Choose 4)

- Fernando Bryant
- Tony Dixon
- Chris Donnelly
- Willie Gaston
- Stacy Harrison
- Kevin Jackson
- Tommy Johnson
- Antonio Langham
- Mark McMillian
- Cedric Samuel
- Sam Shade
- Kelvin Sigler
- Marcus Spencer
- George Teague
- Efrum Thomas
- Deshea Townsend
- Eric Turner
- Lorenzo Ward
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PUNTER (Choose 1)

- Bryne Diehl
- Daniel Pope
- Hayden Stockton
- Tank Williamson
- _____

Name _____

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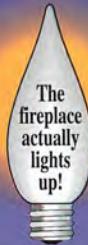
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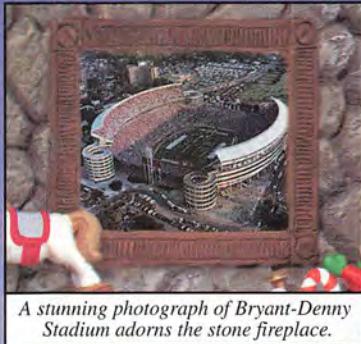
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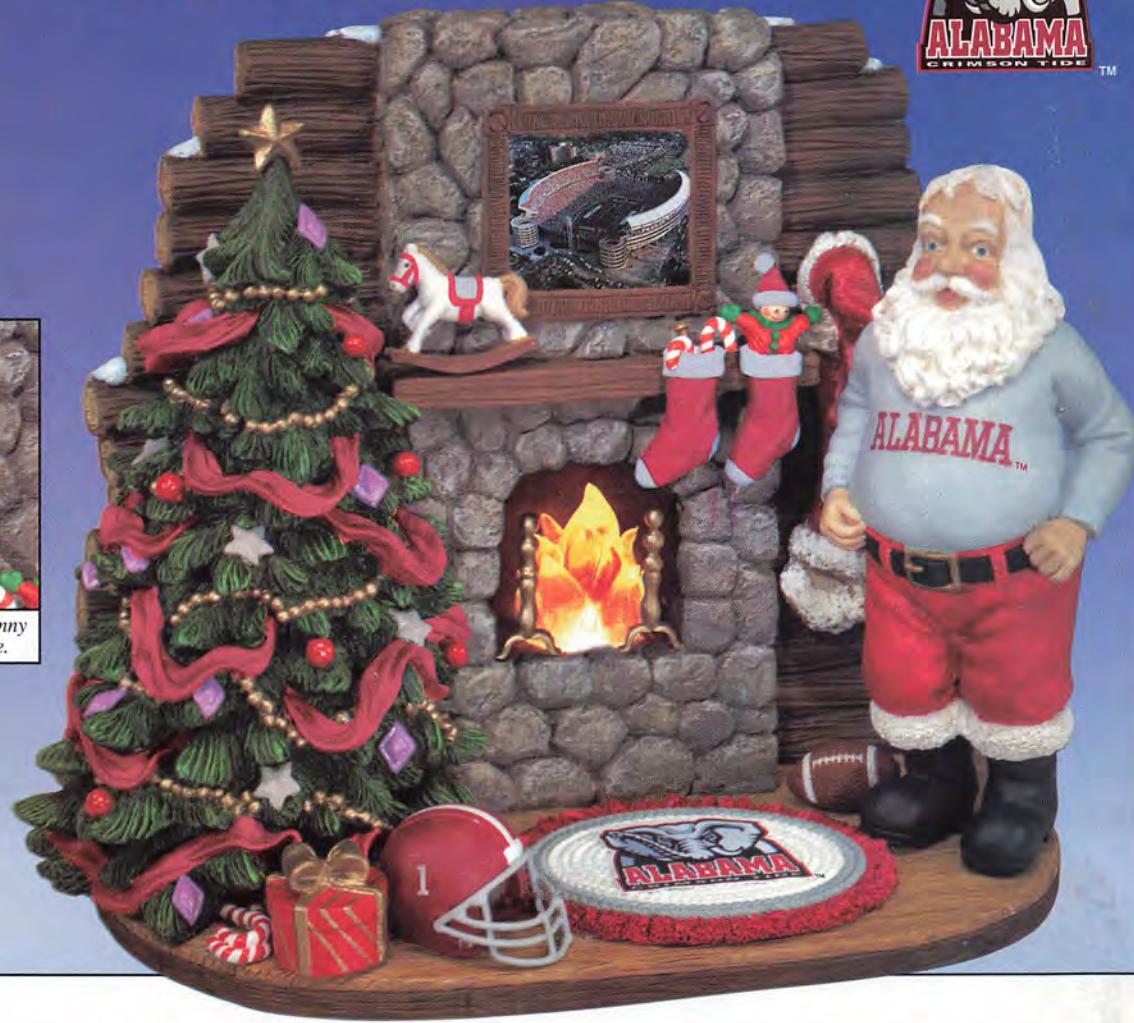


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